PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.9, No.8 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Aug.- Sept. 1987

WEST HAGERT FAMILY DAY

August 8th is the day and 12 Noon to 6PM the time, that gardeners and neighbors of **West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne** are having a party.

Festivities include the dedication of the **Clarence Thorpe Garden** at Hagert and Glenwood and a neighborhood garden tour in celebration of West Hagert's selection as an official neighborhood of the "We The People 200" celebration.

An award ceremony will climax the day's activities, with presentations to **Acia Gay, Jr.**, as well as **James Golson, Sr.** , and others who have been supportive of the West Hagert Neighborhood.

A FRIEND PASSES

Paul Wolfinger, who worked on the PHILADELPHIA GREEN Program from 1979 to 1986, died recently after a lengthy illness. A man of goodness, a great friend to staff and many community gardeners, Paul will be sadly missed.

Garden coordinators **Joyce Windfelder** and Vietnam veteran **John Lonergan** , stand proudly in the memorial garden.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DISTRICT I - BARBARA WAGNER, Coordinator

Talk about community spirit! Fifteen Fishtown residents came out to work with the PHILADELPHIA GREEN crew on the construction of the Cpl. Charles J. Glenn, 3rd U.S. Marine Corps Memorial Garden.

Bringing plenty of liquid refreshments to beat the 90 degree heat as well as lots of enthusiasm, the workers built six raised beds. The concrete slab that was already there made the garden a challenge to design.

A series of raised beds provide attractive planting areas.

Through careful selection, and some trial and error, plants were chosen for this very sunny and hot location. Plantings in the raised beds are yucca, several types of ornamental grasses, daylilies, blazing star and artemesia. The gardeners planted bamboo in two large concrete pots, representing the bamboo in the design of the official Vietnam Veterans Service Medal.

Stop by 1101 Marlborough Street, in Fishtown, to see this fine symbol of community pride. Cpl. Glenn's 85 year old grandmother may come up to say hello while you are there.

"I'VE GOT A QUESTION"

Q. The gardener next to me talked about his lettuce "bolting." What does that mean?

A. Bolting is the premature flowering, due to summer heat, of plants like spinach and lettuce, making them bitter and inedible. These vegetables should be planted for spring or fall harvest, avoiding the heat of summer.

Q. I have always grown okra and like to eat it but wonder if it's good for you?

A. Okra pods are high in Vitamin A and low in calories. The leaves can be eaten and are rich in Vitamin A and C, Calcium and Iron. This vegetable can be fried and some people even eat it raw. The longer it cooks the "gluier" it gets.
Garden Intern **Angenette Milbourne** recently brought in some tasty sweet pickled okra that was a real treat.

Q. Even though I have dwarf fruit trees, the fruit is hard to reach. Any suggestions?

A. Wire a 1-pound coffee can onto the end of a long dowel, broom handle or pipe. Put a folded cloth in the bottom of the can to prevent bruised fruit as it drops into your fruit picker.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

NEW NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

This is the first issue of the newly revised newsletter. We have been planning these changes for some time and will continue to try out new ideas.

Please let us know what features you like best and what to add for future issues.
I greet August happily. A lazy stroll through the full grown flowers, herbs and vegetables, mint cooled iced tea in hand, gives me a sense of peace and happiness that I am a gardener. What about you - why do you like being a gardener?

Betty Tyler

Betty Tyler
Editor

"Thank You!"

Over half the crowd at the City Council hearings on June 12th wore green sun visors with the PHILADELPHIA GREEN emblem on them. They were there to show support for the testimony I presented to the Finance Committee for the funding of PHILADELPHIA GREEN for the coming year. With me was **Mary Walke**, who enthusiastically joined me at the last minute to tell Council how their garden in the Hunting Park section has made an impact on their neighborhood. Members of Council told us they supported our program and applauded all the communities' efforts.

Thanks to everyone who attended the hearings and who circulated and mailed in petitions. I know many Council people received enough to make the message clear - let's make **Philadelphia Green - er**.

J. Blaine Bonham Jr.

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.
Director

NEW STAFF

Barbara Olejnik, who until recently was Chief Landscape Architect for the City of Camden, has joined us as the new Center City Greening Manager.

Barbara will be working with public and private groups to plan greening projects that will make Center City more beautiful.

Some of the possibilities for improvements are Fairmount Park's Azalea Garden (behind the art museum), the 26th Street corridor leading to the airport, Market Street west of City Hall and JFK Boulevard.

We will feature selected projects in future issues.

AUGUST 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WALKING TOUR 1:00-3:00 P.M. FIRST QUARTER	3	4 CHECK PLANTS FOR INSECTS	5	6 TRANSPLANT BEARDED IRIS	7	8 WEST HAGERT CELEBRATION 12:00-6:00 P.M.
9 FULL MOON	10	11	12 CONGRATULATE YOURSELF ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL GARDEN	13	14	15 PLANT: SPINACH LETTUCE RADISHES
16 LAST QUARTER	17	18 CUT BACK PERENNIALS THAT HAVE FINISHED BLOOMING	19	20	21	22 MAKE A PITCHER OF ICED TEA AND ENJOY THE FLOWERS
23	24 NEW MOON	25 TRANSPLANT PEONIES DIVIDE INTO 3 EYE CLUMPS	26	27 WATER DEEPLY	28	29
30	31 FIRST QUARTER					

SEPTEMBER 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 CHECK OUT YOUR GARDEN TO DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO ENTER IN THE HARVEST SHOW
6	7 LABOR DAY FULL MOON	8 CITY GARDENS CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY	9	10 CLEAN UP YOUR POTS FOR THE HARVEST SHOW	11	12
13	14 FIRST QUARTER	15	16 CALL FLOSSIE 625-8280 FOR HARVEST SHOW ENTRY TAGS	17	18	19 BRING HOUSEPLANTS BACK INSIDE
20	21	22	23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	24 HARVEST REGISTRATION 5:30-8:00 P.M.	25 HARVEST SHOW REGISTRATION 7:30-10:00 A.M.	26 HARVEST SHOW HARVEST PARTY 6:00-8:30 P.M.
27 HARVEST SHOW NEW MOON	28 SIGH OF RELIEF!	29	30 LAST QUARTER			

THIS MONTH:

HARVEST PARTY

If you need more Harvest Party tickets, ask for them when you bring your entries for the Harvest Show.

HARVEST SHOW REGISTRATION

Registration for the Harvest Show will be much easier this year. A large tent, just for your convenience, will be set up across from the main Show entrance.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

625-8280

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

WE'RE GONNA HAVE A PARTY

A HARVEST PARTY FOR COMMUNITY GARDENERS

DATE: Saturday, September 26, 1987

TIME: 6:00 to 8:30 PM

PLACE: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue & Horticulture Drive
Fairmount Park

IT'S FREE!

Five free tickets to each community group. You will receive unlimited additional tickets when you make an entry at the Harvest Show at the Registration Tables.

REGISTRATION
- Thursday, September 24 - 5:30 to 8 PM
- Friday, September 25 - 7:30 - 10 AM

To get your free tickets fill out the information below and send it to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

---------- **tear here** ----------

ADDRESS OF GARDEN_____

CONTACT PERSON_____

HOME ADDRESS_____ ZIP CODE_____

PHONE #_____

ON THE VINE

HARVEST SHOW

The Harvest Show is a fun filled Fall Festival for the whole family with special events, demonstrations and children's activities. Join us and be part of the fun and competition.
Here's an opportunity to bring the" best of your garden" for judging.

Check our calendar for dates and times of Harvest Show happenings.

Come one, come all to the Harvest Party for an evening of good music and food.

Some classes in the Harvest Show call for a stem or a spray. Here's how to tell the difference between them.

SPRAY OR STEM?

SPRAY -
If the Harvest Show booklet indicates that a SPRAY is required then you will need to bring a main stem with side branches and flowers on all sides.

Examples: dwarf marigolds, petunias and mums.

STEM -A STEM is the main branch of a plant with leaves and a flower at the end.

Examples: zinnia, cosmos, dahlia, non-dwarf marigold

SPRAY **STEM**

CULTIVATING KIDS

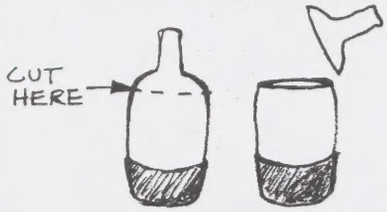
Start the kids now on a terrarium to enter in the **Harvest Show**'s junior horticultural classes.

The rules for terrariums are as follows:
Must have a cover and contain two or more growing plants.
Not to exceed 18" in any direction.

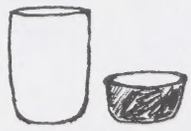
Most important is having the kids pick plants that can be grown together - needing the same soil, water, temperature and light conditions.

Choose plants for the terrarium that like low light and high humidity.
The size of the plants should be in proportion to the size of the container.

Any clear plastic or glass container with a lid can be used.
An inexpensive, easy one to make is from a 2 liter soda bottle.



cut the neck off (as shown)



peel off base

turn cut end upside down and place over base

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) FOR SAFE PEST CONTROL

Many gardeners are concerned about using chemical pesticides in their gardens. Misuse can be a health hazard to people. Often birds, bees and useful insects can be killed in the process, while many pests have become resistant to the poisons.

IPM uses natural products, chemicals, common sense and knowledge to best control pests safely.

We will feature IPM in newsletters throughout the year to help gardeners use the safest and most efficient ways to get rid of pests.

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

KNOW YOUR PESTS!

Learn what they look like when they are larvae as well as adults, when they lay eggs and when they hatch. Learn what their damage looks like so you can correctly identify the problem.

Here's one pest you may have already met. If the Mexican Bean Beetles have damaged your beans, knowing the following information will help you keep your crop healthy and productive without using poisons.

Mexican Bean Beetles look like ladybugs but are larger and have 16 black spots on their backs.

By planting beans in July instead of May, you will miss the biggest beetle hatching time.

If you planted in May, check the bottoms of the bean leaves for yellow egg clusters. Remove and destroy these by hand.

The bean beetles overwinter in garden debris so be sure to pull up all old plants in the fall and pick up all leaves that have dropped to the ground.

By reading seed packets or catalog descriptions before you buy, you can choose disease resistant varieties. Use the recipe for homemade natural spray (listed in last month's newsletter) or Rotenone (sprayed in evening only) if there is a severe problem.

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325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
625-8280

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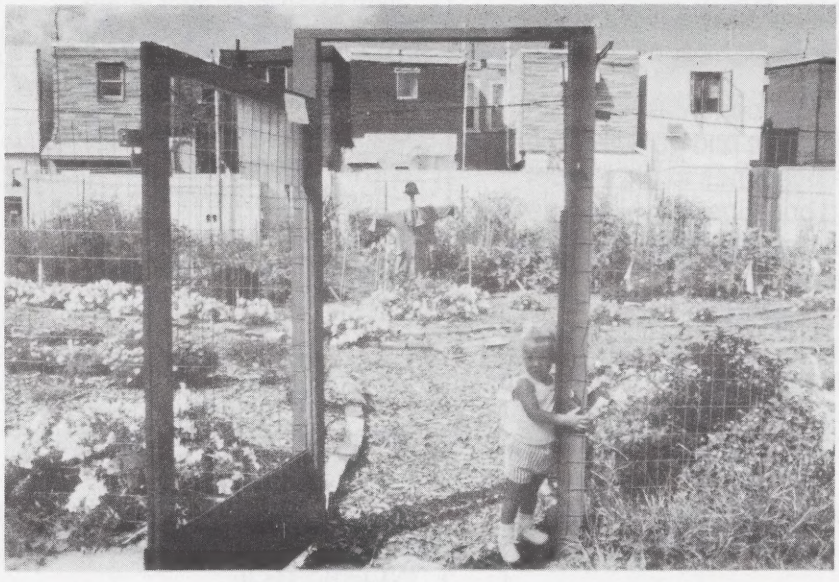
PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.9, No.9 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society October 1987

FRANCISVILLE'S MEMORY LANE

Birch trees, a grape arbor and even a granite sculpture are all part of "Memory Lane," the location of the celebration for the newest Greene Countrie Towne.

The neighbors on the upper 800 block of N Uber and N 20th Streets have been hard at work. The rose trellises are up, the murals painted and the barbeque has already been used for garden parties. We hope you join the gardeners of Francisville for their celebration, October 9th, at 2 PM.



A young gardener stands by the gate of the Mercy Street garden.

THE SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Blaine Bonham, director of PHILADELPHIA GREEN received a letter from ***Lily Yeh***, artist and organizer of the community garden at the **Ile Ife Cultural Center**, North Philadelphia.

Yeh wrote, *"People were wild with happiness and disbelief that something nice is really happening on this one time trash filled lot. The planting of the trees and bushes has changed the whole environment and the attitude of the community."* She said staff, ***Barbara Wagner, Ana Santiago*** and ***Winfred Young*** were *"most supportive, enthusiastic and understanding to this community's needs."*

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DISTRICT II - *Denise Jefferson*, Coordinator

From the very first meeting we had there, the group from the **400 Block of Mercy Street** showed lots of enthusiasm. They agreed to make a combined vegetable and flower garden, later fruit trees and shade trees were added.

Mercy Street's former seven house lot is today a beautiful combination flower and vegetable garden with park benches and two compost bins.

This is a model PHILADELPHIA GREEN group! ***Mr. Coney*** and his neighbors often participate in the workshops and affairs PHILADELPHIA GREEN sponsors.

Recently at the City Gardens Contest awards ceremony, Mercy Street gardeners came out in force, about 15 neighbors, to accept 1st prize for their first year community garden, planted in October 1986.

Their excitement brought back sweet memories of our block's first prize as a first year community garden. We rushed to the stage to accept our award and I hugged and kissed ***Herb Clarke*** in appreciation.

You'll be hearing about other groups in my district in future PHILADELPHIA GREEN Newsletters.

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. I would like to bring in my flowering annual plants for the winter. Which ones can I keep?

A. Wax begonias, coleus, impatiens and geraniums are the best ones to dig up, pot and bring inside. All will need a sunny spot to survive the winter.
You can either collect impatiens seeds which are in the pods that pop open when touched, or you can take cuttings to be rooted in water.

Coleus cuttings can be rooted in soil or in water.

If you don't have the room to keep geraniums, you might take cuttings of them instead. Snap off 3" long stems, then take off all except 3 of the top leaves. Since geraniums rot easily, it is best to let the cuttings sit overnight to dry a little before you plant them in a coarse sand. Do not overwater.

Q. I received some beautiful cannas this year. Can I leave them out all winter?

A. No, Cannas are not hardy. Dig up the clumps now, let them air dry for a few days and store them in a cool, dry place.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Friends:

Wow! Whatever surprises Mother Nature brings - high temperatures, low rainfall - every gardener just takes them in stride. Take a look in this issue at all the community garden winners in the City Gardens Contest. And watch for next month's issue for the Harvest Show winners. Congratulations to all of you for a fantastic gardening season!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Manager, Ed. Department

GARDEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Mark the date Saturday, November 7 on your calendar - the date of the Garden Management Workshop.

You're right, it's not spring! We have changed the workshop to fall so you have time to wrap up the gardening season and get a chance to plan ahead for spring.

More details to follow in a special mailing.

THANK YOU!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN and all our gardeners are especially grateful to the following corporations and foundations for their continued support.

Arco Foundation
Bell of Pennsylvania
W. Atlee Burpee Company
Campbell Soup Company
Chevron, USA, Inc.
The Colonial Penn Ins. Co.
Ernst & Whinney
Fidelity Bank
First Pennsylvania Bank
The Garden
General Accident Group
Hunt Manufacturing Co. Fdn.
IBM Corporation
Johnson & Higgins of PA , Inc.
Maritrans Operating Partners
Mellon Bank (East)
The Mutual Assurance Company
William Penn Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Phila. Contributionship
Philadelphia Electric Company
Philadelphia Suburban Corp.
PNB Charitable Trust
PSFS
Provident National Bank
The Prudential Insurance Co.
Quaker Chemical Foundation
Rohm & Haas Company
Scott Paper Company
SmithKline Beckman Corp.
SPS Technologies
Sun Company, Inc.
The Warwick Foundation
Wawa, Inc.

STAFF CHANGES

Jeff Myers, former Greene Countrie Townes Administrator, is joining our Education Department in mid-October as Neighborhood Education Coordinator. He will be giving direct support, through workshops, to PHILADELPHIA GREEN gardeners, especially those involved in the West Philadelphia Project.
Michael Groman is the new Greene Countrie Townes Administrator. He was formerly a land use planner in Montgomery County.
James Nicholson, who started as Field Operations Supervisor in late August, worked as a landscape consultant before joining PHILADELPHIA GREEN.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

OCTOBER 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 HARVEST SUNFLOWERS
4	5	6 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 6:00 PM	7	8	9 FRANCISVILLE DEDICATION 2-4 PM 855-59 NORTH 20TH ST.	10
11	12	13	14	15 WORLD FOOD DAY EXHIBIT READING TERMINAL MARKET 11-2	16	17 PLANT BULBS
18	19	20	21	22	23 GET COMPOST FROM FAIRMOUNT PARK	24 WORK ON IMPROVING SOIL
25	26	27	28 DECORATE PUMPKINS FOR HALLOWEEN	29	30	31

GARDEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

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More details to follow in a special mailing.

WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners in the community garden classes of the City Gardens Contest:

CHILDREN'S GARDENS
1st Jr. Garden of Gethsemane
2nd Roberto Clemente 4-H
The Caring Center
3rd Seedy Acre Kids

GARDEN BLOCKS
1st 2100 E Stella
2nd 1600 Patton
1900 Fontain
3700 N 15th
6200 Ellsworth
3rd Unit Blk Conestoga
2500 W Cumberland
2600 N 31st
2100 Wharton

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS
Small
1st 21st & Westmoreland
2nd 46th & Linmore
3rd 2500 Federal

Mid-size
1st 2600 N 6th
2nd 621 & 625 W Diamond
3rd 2137 N 20th

Large
1st Garden of Gethsemane
2nd 25th & Reed
3rd 20th & Tioga

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDEN
Small
1st 725 Corinthian
2nd 46th & Wyalusing
3rd 900 Blk American

Mid-size
1st 4243-45 Sansom
2nd Sp. People Adult Day Care
2145 N 2nd
3rd 3201 Turner
Alden Park Manor
1413-21 S Taylor

Large
1st Aspen Farms
2nd Sun Circle Garden
Garden of Eatin'
Squirrel Hill Garden Club
3rd 25th & Tasker
18th & Glenwood
1500 Wanamaker

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDEN
Small
1st 13 N Conestoga
2nd 5960-70 Lambert
59th & Media
3rd Bainbridge Green
41st & Cambridge

Mid-size
1st 1700-02 N Newkirk
2nd 1701-03 S Ringgold
3rd 5918 Arch
2114 N 20th

Large
1st 11th & Pine
2nd 44th & Locust
4600 Tackawanna
3rd 3600 N 9th

1ST YEAR COMMUNITY GARDENS
1st Mercy Street Garden
1101 Marlborough
2nd 1432 S Taylor
2915 W Sedgley
1410 S Taylor
3rd 5219-21 Girard
4000 Reno & Preston
3901 N 13th
2236 Wilder
41st & Parkside

GREENEST BLOCK IN TOWN
1st 6100 Washington
2nd 5951-69 Champlost
500 Lambert
2100 N 20th
3rd 1600 N Dover
Unit Blk N Felton
1300 Germantown

EUGENE E. SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD - large individual garden

Helen Mullen & Ed Reardon
6017 Greene Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (215) 625-8250

October 1987,

Dear Friend,

Are you interested in an exciting career in helping to turn our city green?

PHILADELPHIA GREEN is seeking energetic, dedicated, innovative individuals to coordinate greening efforts in its Greene Countrie Towne Program. Coordinators will work with inner city communities to create neighborhoods of landscaped streets and gardens on vacant lots, providing education programs, technical advice, and materials.

Here are the qualifications for Greene Countrie Towne Coordinators:

- BS/BA in Horticulture or related field experience and/or post high school education.
- Knowledge of and willingness to work in inner city neighborhoods.
- Supervisory Experience
- Valid drivers license.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: OCTOBER 30, 1987

If you like working with plants and people, and if you want an exciting and satisfying job, send your resume today to:

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
ATTN: James Carter

Include salary history/requirements

Sincerely,

Blaine Bonham

J. Blaine Bonham, Director
for PHILADELPHIA GREEN

JBB/ys

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Join us to celebrate another year of good gardening at the annual
Community Recognition Dinner,
Friday, November 20th
at the **Sheraton - Society Hill.**
Cash Bar - 6 PM. Dinner - 7 PM.

Herb Clarke, good friend and supporter of community gardeners, and TV-10 Weatherman, will be our guest speaker. Back by popular demand will be the ***"Benny Fields Band."***
Prizes will be awarded to the top ticket sellers.

1988 NATIONAL GARDENING GRANT PROGRAM

Do you have a children's garden, teach kindergarten through grade 12, work with a 4-H, Scouts or Boy's/Girl's Club?

If the answer is yes to anyone one of these questions, apply today for a $600 gardening grant. This materials grant includes seeds, tools, equipment, books and more. Many PHILADELPHIA GREEN gardens have received this grant in the past.

The application deadline is November 15, 1987. To receive an application, write to:
1988 National Gardening Grants
C/O 180 Flynn Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

If you would like more information or help in filling out the application, call Betty Tyler, 625-8280.

CULTIVATING KIDS

It's Halloween time - children's favorite holiday next to Christmas.

Remember the scary "dead man's game?" I have a wonderful script and list of the "remains" of a dead person that are passed around a circle of children in a dark room. All the ingredients come from your garden or grocery store. Call Betty Tyler at 625-8280 to get a copy of this game.

Pumpkin seeds make a good snack for school. After cutting off the top of the pumpkin, have the children pull out all the goo and seeds. Rinse the seeds with water, dry them, put them on an oiled cookie sheet, turning once. Sprinkle with salt and put them in a 300° oven for 30 minutes.

Children will enjoy helping to prepare Harvest Stew, a really festive meal for Halloween dinner. Pick the season's best from the garden such as squash, peppers, onions, beans, carrots, greens and okra. Cut into stew size chunks and use your favorite stew recipe. Next, take a medium size pumpkin (that will fit in the oven), cut the top off as you do a Halloween pumpkin and clean it out. Place it on a greased cookie sheet and fill with the stew. Cover top with foil. Bake at 300° for 3 hours. Remove the foil top and replace top of the pumpkin. Enjoy!

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS
Those kids from the **Garden of Gethsemene** are really super. Not only did they win first place in the Children's Garden category in the City Gardens Contest but they also won 21 blue ribbons and Best of Show at the Delaware County 4-H Fair.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

FALL PLANTING

Fall is the best planting time for many trees and shrubs (into November). Check your supplier and catalogs to see if the varieties you want should be planted now.

BULB PLANTING TIPS

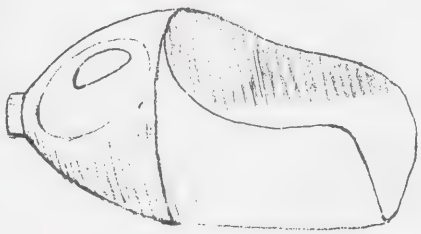
Some people like to have all their flowers in neat little rows while others like a more natural look. The best plan for urban plantings is to plant the bulbs in groups. They look much showier if they are growing in clumps. To save time, try to plant bulbs in places where they won't be disturbed.

BLEACH BOTTLE BONANZA

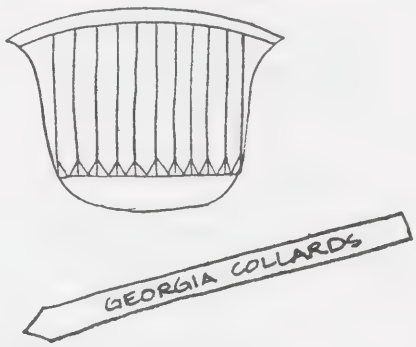
One large bleach bottle can be made into many useful gardening objects. Wash the bottle thoroughly, keeping the top on the bottle.

Cut the bottom off 1" from the base and use this is as a plant saucer.

Cut one side out in a curve and use the bottle part as a scoop for placing mulch around plants or adding fertilizer.



Use the piece that is left for making plant labels. Cut into 1" x 4" strips. (Be sure to write on them with a permanent marker.)



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325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
625-8280

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Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.9, No.10 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society November, 1987

HEROES OF FRANCISVILLE

Jane Golden, Eric Furness, Rodney Bell and ***Tony Smallwood*** ,all of the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network (PAGN), received special recognition as heroes at the Francisville Greene Countrie Towne Celebration.

Just a week before the celebration, the crew arrived at 20th and Fairmount to work on their final mural in time to see thieves making off with most of the scaffolding. Though the PAGN crew couldn't stop the thieves at the time, the crooks were arrested as they later returned to collect the rest of the scaffolding.

Later that same night, Jane and her crew helped identify the missing scaffolding by the splattered colors they were using to paint the mural.

Thanks again to Jane, Eric, Rodney and Tony.

Mayor W. Wilson Goode dedicates Francisville Greene Countrie Towne, Friday, October 9th. (See inside for more pictures.)

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Philadelphia Housing Authority - *Juanita Wooten,* Coordinator

Abbottsford is part of the PHA/PHILADELPHIA GREEN coordinated program. It is a good example of how tenants working together can change a real problem into a wonderful garden.

Mattie Dandridge, site contact person, showed me a large site which was on a slope between two housing complexes. Size, a mostly shady spot, a crumbling retaining wall that caused severe erosion and no maintenance on the grass or shrubs had caused many problems for the tenants.

Mattie and her neighbors had a dream. They had seen other Abbottsford sites developed and wanted a sitting garden.

The tenants said they were willing to work together on the area and showed their interest and concern by requesting repairs and additions to the retaining walls by the Housing Authority.

Spring came and the work began. Ten children, under the direction of Mattie Dandridge, started cleaning the drainage ditches and the mud stopped clogging the sidewalks. Compost was brought in and the children backfilled gullies, holes and ditches.

Tenants then planted flowers and shrubs, along with a strong sense of *"we did it"* at Abbottsford!

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. Help! Some of the bulbs I planted last fall are starting to come up now. Does this mean they will freeze and not bloom in the spring?

A. Not at all. It is not unusual to have some bulbs show green leaves at this time of the year. Remember, it is the bulb, tucked safely underground, that contains the flower you will see in the spring.

Q. Are there any herbs I can grow indoors this winter?

A. If you have a cool, sunny area, you can grow pots of parsley, chives, basil and rosemary. (For more information on growing herbs, sign up for the herb workshop listed on calendar page.)

NOTE: The perennial herbs you have left growing in the garden should be mulched well after the first heavy freeze.

Q. How can I grow garlic?

A. This is your last chance to plant garlic this year. Get a garlic from the store and divide the cloves. Plant each one 2" deep (with the papery covering still attached) about 4" apart in loose good soil. They will be ready for harvest next August.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Friends:

Though it may feel like time to go into hibernation, we've planned a number of activities so we keep in touch with you through the colder months ahead.

We'll take a look at how to get more people to share the work and how to get the garden ready for winter at the Garden Management Workshop, Saturday, November 7th. Bring your gardening friends to the Phila. Gas Works, South Broad and Tasker Streets, 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing you at the Community Recognition Dinner later this month. Join us for a fun filled evening!

Patricia Schrecker
Manager
Education Department

Sadly, we must tell you of ***Father Lou Steingraber's*** death this past September. A long-time Advisory Board member, Lou made great contributions to his South Philadelphia community while Assistant Pastor at St. Gabriel's. We will miss his gentle and generous spirit.

HOLIDAY GARDENS

Last December, ***Mildred Peterkin*** and The Sun Circle gardeners, **17th and Westmoreland**, set up and decorated a holiday evergreen tree in their garden.

This year, ***Mary Walke*** and her gardening friends at **13th and Pike** plan to decorate their garden with all the trimmings. Mary made a great comment on their plans: *"Why should we go all the way to Bethlehem (PA) to see the lights when we can do it right here."*

We know there are plenty of other neighborhoods that dress up their blocks and gardens for the holidays. Let us know if you're getting into the holiday spirit this year.

Give us a call or drop us a card with your name and block or garden address. We'll include a list of blocks and gardens in our December issue so you and your friends can take a holiday tour of Philadelphia's great neighborhoods.

CHANGES AT URBAN GARDENING

Libby Goldstein recently announced her retirement as Director of Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, a post she held since 1977. We wish Libby the best as she pursues new endeavors.

Terry Mushovic, Garden Advisor with Urban Gardening has been named Acting Director. We look forward to working with Terry in this new role.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

NOVEMBER 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 PLANT ASPARAGUS FOR SPRING HARVEST	2	3	4	5 FULL MOON	6	7 GARDEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
8	9	10 RECOGNITION DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE	11	12	13 LAST QUARTER	14
15 PLANT RHUBARB FOR SPRING HARVEST	16	17	18	19	20 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER	21 NEW MOON
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27 PHILADELPHIA GREEN OFFICE CLOSED FIRST QUARTER	28
29	30					

WINTER WORKSHOPS

PHILADELPHIA GREEN is offering your group of 10 to 15 people a choice of two craft workshops during January and February. The cost is $5.00 per person for materials and instruction. If your group would like to have a workshop, call Betty Tyler at 625-8280 to set a time, date and place.

JANUARY - Houseplant Baskets.
Learn about the plants that will grow well in your house and take home a basket you planted.

FEBRUARY - Herbs are Fun.
We will talk about growing herbs and how to use them. You will make herbal sachets and potpourris for home and gifts.

FRANCISCILLE FESTIVITIES

More than 200 residents and friends of Francisville were on hand for the dedication ceremony declaring that neighborhood Philadelphia's fourth Greene Countrie Towne. Philadelphia Anti Graffiti Network (PAGN) and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program co-sponsored activities there.

Congratulations to Una Vee Bruce, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens of Francisville and Minnie Turk, Board President of Francisville, who led their neighbors in this tremendous greening effort.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Philadelphia Green

Holiday Field Trip

TO:	**BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM for "A Brandywine Christmas"** **LONGWOOD GARDENS - Enjoy the formal gardens, Conservatory, holiday decorations, outdoor Christmas lighting and concerts**
DATE:	**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1987**
COST:	**$6.50 PER PERSON**
TIME:	**LEAVE AT 12:15 PM AND RETURN BY 6:00 PM**
LEAVE FROM:	**PHS - 325 WALNUT STREET**

----------tear here----------

Please reserve_____ seat(s) at **$6.50 each**

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE NUMBER_____**AMOUNT ENCLOSED $**_____

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 24, 1987

Make check or money order payable to PHS and Return to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Whether (weather) you've attended in the past or not, we're predicting this year's Community Recognition Dinner will be a gardeners' gala.

Guest speaker, warm and sunny ***Herb Clarke***, TV 10 weatherman, forecasts an evening of 100% chance of fun.

The ***"Benny Fields Band"*** will have guests dancing up a storm and *"Singing in the Rain."*

Your attendance will be a barometer of another year of good gardening.

A shower of prizes will be awarded to top ticket sellers.

No high pressure, just let us know before November 10th if you'll be attending.

Flood ***Flossie*** with calls at 625-8280 if you need more information.

CULTIVATING KIDS

PHILADELPHIA GREEN is offering a resource packet to people interested in running gardening activities for children. It includes 1) The Youth Gardening Book, published by the National Gardening Association, 2) a contact list of people in the city who garden with kids, and 3) other materials that will both help kids learn more about gardening and make it easier for gardeners to include children in their activities.

THE JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW will be held April 21 - 24, 1988.

The Show's theme is ***"Storybook Gardens"***." PHILADELPHIA GREEN is offering special workshops for school classes to help children prepare for the Show.

These classroom sessions will be on dish gardens and terrariums, making seed masks and table arrangements.

For more information on either the children's activity packet or the Junior Flower Show workshops, call Betty Tyler at 625-8280.

1987 HARVEST SHOW SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

SMALL GARDENS

1st Place	1712-14 N 18th	Estella Williams and friends
2nd Place	Conestoga & Arch	Dora & Berdina Cornish and friends
3rd Place	Roberto Clemente 4-H	Grace Hagerty and friends
H.M.	20 N 57th	Edna Jones and friends
	2001 W Diamond	Luther Belle Williams and friends

MEDIUM GARDENS

1st Place	Wayne & Hansberry	Esther Gardener & friends
2nd Place	2600 N 6th	Pena and friends
3rd Place	20th & Diamond	son and friends
H.M.	39th & Folsom	this and friends
	17th & Westmoreland	Peterkin and friends

LARGE GARDENS

1st Place	3rd & Christian	Helen Walczak and friends
2nd Place	Pearl & Conestoga	Blanche Epps and friends
3rd Place	56th & Haverford	Hazel Felton and friends
H.M.	25th & Dickinson	Alta Felton and friends
	49th & Aspen	Hayward Ford and friends

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.9, No.12 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society December, 1987

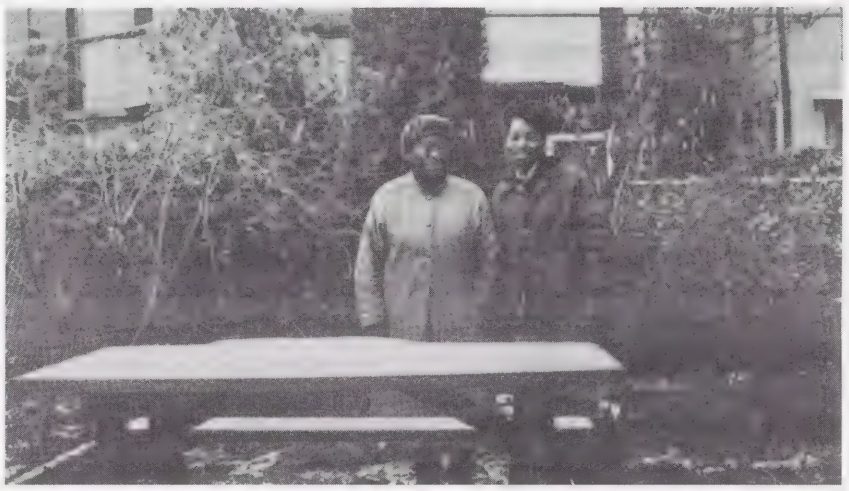
AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Greene Countrie Townes - ***Mike Groman***, Administrator

What has been happening in Greene Countrie Townes lately? Here's a quick summary of where we've been, where we are and where we hope to go.

As you may already know, the GCT staff has been in transition for the past 6 months. ***Beverly Crandall-Atkins*** moved on to another job, ***Lynne Westfield*** relocated to New York City and ***Jeff Myers***, the former GCT Administrator, is now a part of our Education Department. Despite these changes, the crowning achievement for the period - the dedication of Francisville as the fourth Greene Countrie Towne - was successfully celebrated on October 9th. We congratulate all who were part of that tremendous effort.

The dust is now settling in the GCT department and things are beginning to take shape. Until recently, I was an environmental planning consultant. As the new GCT Administrator, I've been busy putting together a new staff consisting of ***Eileen Gray*** and ***Olivia Lehman***. Eileen has worked with Longwood Gardens and the Morris Arboretum in its Urban Forestry Program. She will be working with West Shore and Point Breeze. Olivia comes to PG with a background in environmental sciences and experience as a program director at the Powelton Village Community Education Center. She will be assigned to Francisville and GCT #7 which as yet is unidentified. We are currently interviewing for the third coordinator who will work in the Susquehanna and West Hagert areas.



Willie Mae Bullock and Gwen Rapley of the Susquehanna area dream of spring.

There's been a build up of wonderful energy in the Greene Countrie Townes, especially in Susquehanna. We plan to tap this energy to produce another spectacular greening program there. Already, projects at 20th & Diamond and 16th & Lehigh are starting to move forward. Meetings are taking place to identify other groups anxious to become a part of our greening efforts. Though spring will be extremely hectic, we'll be ready for it.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Mamie Nichols, head of the Point Breeze Federation and member of the City Planning Commission and ***Blaine Bonham***, director of PHILADELPHIA GREEN recently spoke at a conference on Open Space Preservation in Newark, NJ.

Both Nichols and Bonham addressed the need for community managed open space, and how that was beginning to happen in Point Breeze and other Greene Countrie Townes. Efforts are currently underway to set up a land trust here in Philadelphia to protect vacant land which is in use for community gardening.

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. I know I will receive a poinsettia for Christmas? How do I take care of it?

A. Poinsettias grow well in most houses, and in most light conditions. Extreme sun or darkness are not recommended.

Keep the plant out of drafts.

Water when the soil surface is nearly dry. Fertilizing is not necessary since the grower has done that for you.

Q. I've heard of Christmas cactus, but what is a Thanksgiving cactus?

A. There are 3 species that are very similar, the Thanksgiving cactus, Christmas cactus, and Easter cactus. They are all beautiful and start to bloom at the time closest to their name.

Put any of these three in a bright spot, away from direct sun, feed lightly every other week and keep them moist.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Friends,

Wishing you all the best of holidays.

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Department Manager

RETIRING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

PHILADELPHIA GREEN says goodbye to some hard working Advisory Board members this month.

We are pleased to have had the following people on the Board and wish them well:

Lewis Allen
Charlotte Donald
Mae Lanier
Josef Revlock
Efrain Rios
Janet Williams

ACGA CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff members ***Blaine Bonham***, ***Jonathan Frank***, ***Denise Jefferson***, ***Sally McCabe***, ***Jeff Myers***, ***Betty Tyler***, and ***Barbara Wagner*** attended the recent American Community Gardening Associations (ACGA) conference in Seattle, WA. The ACGA is a national group made up of staff members from community gardening programs around the country.

Barbara Wagner participated in the Site Design workshop and spoke about the Vietnam Memorial garden in Fishtown.

Jeff Myers was reappointed to the board as an at-large member from the Mid-Atlantic region and Betty Tyler was appointed to the board as Education Committee head.

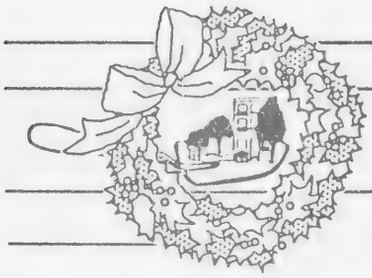
ACGA

SORRY TO SEE YOU GO

Jeannine Vannais, Point Breeze Greene Countrie Towne Coordinator recently left PHILADELPHIA GREEN. She will be spending more time with her young daughter and working part-time at Pennsbury Manor restoring the herb garden there.

Jeannine will be on call as a consultant for PHILADELPHIA GREEN in coming months.

Ana Santiago, Assistant District Coordinator in District I has moved out of the city and will be working closer to her new home.



PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

DECEMBER 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 HOLIDAY FIELD TRIP TO BRANDYWINE MUSEUM AND LONGWOOD GARDENS	5
6	7	8	9 CLEAN TOOLS, WIPE WITH MOTOR OIL AND STORE IN A BUCKET OF SAND	10	11	12
13	14 PLANT PAPER WHITE NARCISSA FOR WINTER ENJOYMENT	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 PHILADELPHIA GREEN OFFICE CLOSED	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29	30	31 PHILADELPHIA GREEN OFFICE CLOSED		

Happy Holidays
from all of us at
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

ON THE VINE

Flossie

All the lucky gardeners who attended the Recognition Dinner went home with a pot of herbs to grow and use in their favorite recipes.

Just when you're yearning for some fresh chives for your omelet or a whole leaf of basil for your stewed tomatoes, why not start a kitchen windowsill herb garden? It's easy to do - just keep these hints in mind.

Light - Indoor herbs will need at least five hours of direct sun each day. If your light exposure is minimal, you can keep your herbs under flourescent lights. Place plants at least 5" but no more than 12" from the bulbs and make sure they receive 12 to 16 hours of flourescent light each day.

Temperature - Herbs prefer cool temperatures (60° to 65°) and can take a 5° to 10° drop in temperature at night.

Watering - A good rule to remember is water when it feels dry one-half inch below the soil surface.

Feeding - When grown in a pot, herbs will need additional nutrients - a small amount every two weeks starting in March.

Pests - Although herbs are seldom the target of insects, problems occassionally do occur indoors. If you discover aphids or spider mites, try a strong spray of lukewarm water or wash the leaves with a mild soap.

Indoor herbs most definitely earn their keep. Windowsill herbs, close at hand, are a cook's definition of bliss. When you brush against them as you go about your work, they offer a breath of spring.

CULTIVATING KIDS

Holiday times are made up of memories - of sights, sounds, smells and good food.

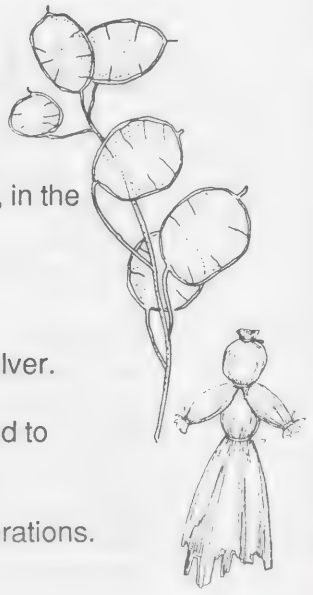
So how about a trip to the Zoo? It's less crowded, the animals are more active in the cooler weather and the children can stretch their legs.

Check the newspaper for lists of neighborhoods that have many Christmas decorations and take an early evening stroll or ride there.

Come home and make a big bowl of popcorn sprinkled with herbs - parsley, garlic and thyme mixed with butter is a favorite. Make hot cocoa stirred with a peppermint stick and sing some favorite songs.

Memories are made of this!

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS



You can make beautiful Christmas decorations from natural materials found in your garden, in the parks or along the streets.

Treasures like artemesia, sweet gum balls, pine cones and acorns can be used.

Artemesia, which is fragrant, comes in many varieties and wonderful colors from green to silver.

You can either pick it now and add it to a full size wreath or take one stem and wind it around to make a miniature wreath to hang on your tree or give as a gift.

Check the garden to see what other pods, stems or dried leaves can be used to make decorations.

HEATING OIL GROUP SAVES CONSUMERS MONEY

Last winter, Philadelphia area consumers saved up to $200 on their heating oil bills thanks to **Buyers Up**, Ralph Nader's heating oil co-op.

This non-profit group purchases oil below retail because of the large number of group members.

For more information, call 222-0600.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No.1 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society January, 1988

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Denise Jefferson, District #2 Coordinator

THE WEST PHILADELPHIA GREENING PROJECT is a cooperative effort using the services of the University of PA Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Fels Center of Government, and The West Philadelphia Partnership. The project is funded by the J. N. Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN Program will implement greening projects within the prescribed boundaries working with interested community groups.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN will provide construction materials, plants and technical assistance. Specific attention will be placed on neighborhood education in the form of workshops aimed at increasing the skills of program participants to ensure long-term maintenance.

University of PA students will be working closely with PHILADELPHIA GREEN helping with garden design as well as studying the effects of greening on a neighborhood.

We anticipate about sixty projects over the next three years. These will be done in three sub-areas within West Philadelphia. Due to their size, these boundaries will have to be narrowed and will be announced at a later time. Thus far we have completed three street tree blocks with a total of thirty-seven trees planted. By spring of next year we will provide eight new garden blocks, a minimum of five new lot projects and improve six existing ones.

1988 FLOWER SHOW

PHILADELPHIA GREEN'S Flower Show Exhibit Committee, headed by ***Ruth Flounders*** and ***Anne Vallery***, is hard at work on this year's exhibit.

The theme of the exhibit is *"Community Gardening - A patchwork of Roots."* It will feature a variety of the ethnic gardens in the city and the unique vegetables and other plants that are grown in them.

1988 SHOW THEME: *"The World Is Your Garden"*
DATES: March 6 - 13
PLACE: Civic Center - 34th & Civic Center Boulevard
For time and admission information call 625-8280.

Here is a picture of the very first PHILADELPHIA GREEN exhibit. Can you name the year? See the last page for the answer.

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. I would like to *"think spring"*. Are there any plants I can start now while I have the time?

A. You can start Wax Begonia (Begonia semperflorens - the popular kind you buy from your garden mart) from seed now.

The seedlings will be ready to put in the shady part of your garden by the middle of May.

When you start seeds such as these in the house now, the plants will need 14-16 hours of flourescent light each day for good growth.

Q. Will the City of Philadelphia be recycling Christmas trees this year?

A. The Philadelphia Streets Department Recycling Program will again help you change your Christmas tree into woodchips. For more information, call 686-8298 or 8299 or watch the newspapers for details.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS,

1988! It amazes me to think that I have gardener friends dating back ten years from when we first planted street trees and started gardens together.

We've enclosed a couple of our new 1988 calendars for you to share with your fellow gardeners - to help you keep track of PHILADELPHIA GREEN events.

To all of you, new as well as old friends, have the happiest of New Years.

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Department
Manager

Percy Newsome has left PHILADELPHIA GREEN. He was Garden Assistant for District II and a former Garden Intern.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR UNITY

The Citizens Committee For Unity is part of the Philadelphia Crisis Intervention Network.

Its mission and goals are: *"to raise public awareness about interracial incidents and promote positive intervention and action; to prevent interracial incidents and disputes in the Philadelphia region; and to promote an atmosphere of harmony, understanding and unity in the Philadelphia region."*

For more information, call 592-5600.

PHS HOTLINE

Beginning in January, the PHS Horticultural Hotline will be open to answer gardening questions every weekday, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Gardeners can call for information about houseplants, plant selections for spring or with any other question about plants.

DIRECTOR SPEAKS IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

The St. Paul Garden Club and Mayor's Clean Neighborhood Department invited ***Blaine Bonham***, director to speak about the PHILADELPHIA GREEN program and to ask his advice about starting a greening program in their city.

Blaine was instrumental in giving the groups information which they will use to help their spring startup campaign.

There were many requests for the article ***Herb Clarke*** quoted at the Recognition Dinner. Here is a copy for you to keep.

MOST OF WHAT I REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW TO LIVE AND WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO BE, I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN.

Wisdom is not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life.

Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you get out into the world watch for traffic.

Hold hands and stick together.

Be aware of wonder.

Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Gold fish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. And so do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all - **LOOK!**

Everything you need to know is there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about three every afternoon, then lay down on our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up after our own messes.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together. Amen.

Robert Fulghum
Kansas City Times

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY

Join us for a six session course on city gardening taught by experts from around the Delaware Valley. This series is designed for those seasoned gardeners_____

who use the basics of organic gardening, but want to know more about composting...

who can tell a mexican bean bettle from a ladybug, but want to know the safest ways to control plant pests and diseases...

who know the difference between an annual and a perennial, but would like to know how to propogate them...

who already grow parsley and chives, but would grow other herbs if they knew what to do with them...

who know that trees and shrubs need pruning, but don't always know when and how to do it...

who have heard about extending the growing season but, have never tried building and using a cold frame...

who want to learn more and share this information with others in their neighborhood.

The first six sessions will be followed by several field trips. Participants will receive garden materials at the completion of all six sessions. The classes will start Saturday, March 19 and will be on Saturdays from 10AM to 12 Noon. They will be in the PG Classroom, 8th Floor, 325 Chestnut Street. The class size will be limited.

This series is limited to city residents.

Please return your application by February 9th.

- - - -

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Here's a *scent* --sational idea to spice up a stuffy home in wintertime. Open your kitchen cupboard and brew up a home fragrance.

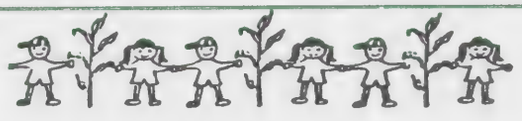
SPICE SCENT

16 whole cloves
3 pieces of stick cinnamon
1 1/2 T pickling spice
1 tsp ground allspice

Add to a quart of water and simmer in a kettle over a low flame.

cut out and put in your recipe file

CULTIVATING KIDS



Children sometimes understand the care of plants better if they think of plants as having the same basic needs they do.

Children and plants both need: sunshine - air - water - food - good roots

Children and plants both can get sick if they:

don't have enough light
don't get a good start
have wet feet
get too much or too little food
are exposed to pollutants

The following experiment will help children see how plants need sunshine and we'll give you an experiment with air in a future issue.

SUNSHINE EXPERIMENT

Materials:

3 small pieces of black paper cut into circles
paper clips
a large leaved plant

To do the experiment:

Attach the circles of paper to a leaf using the paper clips.
Wait 5 days and then remove the circles.

Results:

What happened to the part of the leaf that was covered?
How does the leaf look three days after the paper is removed?

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

The best thing about January is that it's garden catalog time. We have time to relax and mentally plan and replan our gardens.

How about having a garden party? Invite other gardeners over and ask them to bring their catalogs, their favorite recipe using their garden harvest, a sample to taste, and their best gardening hints. You can ask questions about varieties you want to try and find out who will share a packet of seeds with you.

The following catalogs offer varieties that have been successful in this area.

FREE SEED CATALOGS

VEGETABLES & FLOWERS

Thompson & Morgan
P.O. Box 100
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Burpee Seed Company
300 Park Avenue
Warminster, PA 18974

Johnny's Seeds
Foss Hill Road
Albion, Maine 04910

Shepherd's Garden Seeds
7389 W Zayante Road
Felton, CA 95018

Nichols Nursery
1190 N Pacific Highway
Albany, OR 97321

Geo. W. Parks Seed Co.
255 Cokesbury Road
Greenwood, SC 29647

The Wayside Gardens Company
Hodges, SC 29695-0001

Vermont Bean and Seed Company
Garden Lane
Bomoseen, VT 05732

Harris Seeds
Moreton Farm
Rochester, NY 14624

FRUIT TREES

Stark Brothers Nurseries
Dept. A1808F
Louisiana, MO 63353

Kelly Brothers Nurseries
Dansville, NY 14437

BACK TO BASICS GARDENING

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program will hold another fine Winter Workshop series.
For more information on the six workshops, call 560-4165.

If you haven't heard, Urban Gardening's new home is 4601 Market Street.

FLOWER SHOW PICTURE QUIZ ANSWER
The year was 1983, the Show theme was "Follow the Sun", and the exhibit title was "PHILADELPHIA GREEN STREET"

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
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625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No2. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society February 1988

NEWSPAPER RECOGNIZES TWO GARDENERS

The Philadelphia Inquirer recently ran two wonderful articles about PHILADELPHIA GREEN gardeners, **Rachel Bagby** and **Naomi Heard**.

The feature story about Rachel Bagby highlighted her campaign to clear vacant lots and rehabilitate homes in the Susquehanna area. The second article focused on Naomi Heard and her neighborhood's pocket park on the 4600 block of Tackawana Street.

It's great to have citywide recognition for two gardeners we already know are special.

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 6 - 13

Philadelphia Civic Center

Adults: $7.75 advance sale
$8.50 at the door

Children under 12: $4.25

Glenwood Court, 2026 Glenwood Avenue

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Mike Groman, Greene Countrie Towne Administrator.

The West Hagert Neighborhood holds the distinction of being the first Greene Countrie Towne. Located in North Philadelphia, west and south of 20th Street and Glenwood Avenue, this *"oasis of green"* was established in 1982, through the efforts of the community and PHILADELPHIA GREEN.

The eight blocks of West Hagert are filled with street trees; the window sills are topped with flower boxes; and the sidewalks are dotted with planting containers. Several sitting gardens are also scattered throughout the neighborhood.

One of the more elaborate sitting gardens is Glenwood Court at 2026 Glenwood Avenue. This garden is a fine example of what can be done with a single vacant lot. A red brick wall fronts the garden with a wrought iron gate and two small windows through which the wonders of the garden can be seen. A brick path runs the length of the colorful garden and two colonial street lamps keep the garden well lighted at night.

The brick path and wall were constructed by **Acie Gay** and several other block residents who donated their time and labor to the project. **Dorsha Mason** convinced the city that the street lamps were needed for the garden. Since it's completion, **Geraldine Cade** has taken excellent care of the garden, winning many prizes in the City Gardens Contest.

If you're in the neighborhood, stop by Glenwood Court and take a peek. It shows what the love of gardening and strong neighborhood commitment can do!

"I'VE GOT A QUESTION"

Q. Which branches can I bring inside to force (bring to bloom)?

A. Many city gardens have forsythia, pussy willow and quince. Others have fruit trees. All of these can be forced during February.

Budded branches should be cut, the stems wrapped in damp newspaper and then put into water. Put the container where it will receive bright light. They will bloom anytime from 10 days to 3 weeks later.

Q. I'm curious. What is the most popular houseplant? I think it is theAfrican violet.

A. You're right. The African violet (which came from East Africa) is the most popular. They are easy to grow, come in many colors and live a long time. They also do well in our warm houses.

It is easy to propagate a new plant by taking a leaf with the stem attached and putting 1/2" of the stem into a pot of damp sand or perlite. In about 3 months, new leaves will appear.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

So here we are, knee deep in winter, with visions of spring rolling through our minds. We've made our seed lists, know what supplies we need to buy, but where is spring? Hold on, it's coming.

While we're waiting, let's think about our health. Are all systems go? Have we done our daily exercises? Have we found the diet that works best for us? How's the blood-pressure? Let's be sure everything's in good working order before we get out there again this spring.

Best of health!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Department
Manager

TAKE PRIDE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Recently, PHILADELPHIA GREEN was named one of the first place winners in the **Take Pride in Pennsylvania** Program sponsored by the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Resources. The partnership category for which the award was given recognized the successful pooling of neighborhood, municipal and private sector resources.

Congratulations to you all for taking pride in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania!

WE FORGOT

Last month's newsletter listed the PHS Horticultural Hotline but we forgot the phone number.

Here it is: 922-8043

Monday - Friday, 9:30 to noon.

INTERNS GRADUATE

Staff recently hosted a graduation ceremony for the 1987 PHILADELPHIA GREEN Intern class marking the end of their year-long program. Dinner was followed by the presentation of certificates and a slide show of the Intern's own gardens.

Special thank yous to:

Lillian Gerrick
Melinda Johnson
Verlene Johnson
Betty Lambert
Angenette Milbourne
Paul (Danny) Smith, Sr.
James Wright

for all their hard work and enthusiasm this year.
We enjoyed working with everyone.

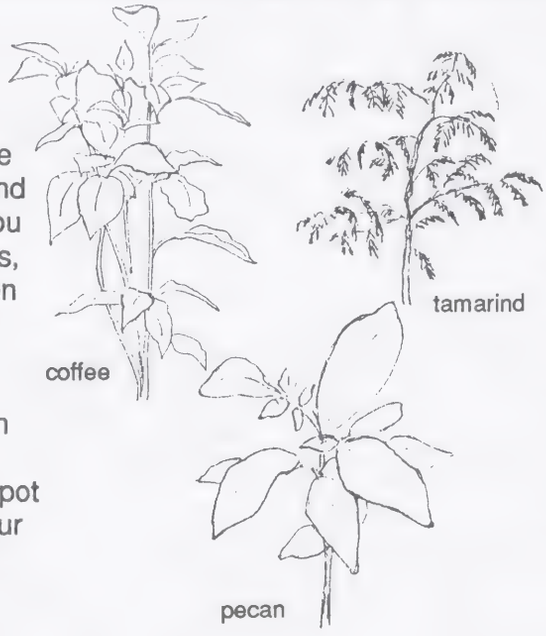
ON THE VINE

Flossie

It's easy to start an indoor garden with plants from exotic places. Many supermarkets and produce stands carry unusual varieties of fruits and nuts. All you need to do is follow the directions below. Watching real fruits and nuts grow is lots of fun and helps you get through the late winter chill.

Coffee (South America)
Plant fresh UNROASTED beans in a pot with a sterile soilless mix (peat moss and perlite). Mist regularly. You will end up with a gorgeous, bushy plant that might even develop a few beans.

Pecan (Southern states)
Soak raw unshelled nuts in water 5 to 7 days. Use soilless mix and plant in a pot that's at least 8" deep. Your pecan will grow into a tree with a leafy canopy.



Tamarind (Caribbean)
These pods are found in Spanish markets. They look like fat brown lima beans. Remove the beans, slit their skins, and soak in water for several hours before planting in soilless mix. To produce a "bonsai" specimen, pinch off new growth.. Tamarind is used to make tea, season Spanish and Indian dishes, or eaten plain. The tamarind tree has beautiful willowy branches.

CULTIVATING KIDS

Have you eaten a bud today? Ask a child if he or she has ever eaten a root or stems or buds. They might be surprised to realize:

some vegetables are roots -

beets
carrots
turnips
radishes

some vegetables are stems -

rhubarb
celery
asparagus
leeks

some vegetables are bulbs -

cauliflowers
broccoli
brussels sprouts

some vegetables are fruits* -

string beans
peas
squash
corn

* Remember that the fruit of a plant is the part that produces seeds.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Now is the time to start seeds indoors for certain flowers - impatiens, petunias, verbena - and vegetables - celery, lettuce, onions and beets (the only root crop that can be transplanted with any success.)

Most of these seeds can be purchased as plants or planted out early so it might not seem necessary to start them indoors. Here are some reasons for starting your own plants:

* You get a wonderful sense of satisfaction in growing your own plants

* You know the exact condition of each plant and its roots when you put it in the garden

* You have a better chance for strong plants and better yield

* You can save alot of money by growing your own plants especially if your garden is large

Many varieties of flower and vegetable seeds are shown in catalogs, including heirloom (old fashioned) varieties but few varieties are sold as plants. Growing from seed increases your choice for species that will best suit your garden.

NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1988

A warm welcome goes out from us to all new Advisory Board members. Thanks for joining the team!

Mary Lena Brown
John Coney
Trudl Fuchs
Geraldine Gaskins
James LaRosa
Dr. Thomas Mills
Ingrid Montgomery
Mattie Robbins
Donna Thorpe
Haroldline Trower
Sharon Turner

Welcome to a New Gardener

Sally McCabe, Citywide Administrator, is proudly showing off her new baby girl- **Shoshona Megan McCabe-Pokras.** Mother, father and daughter are all doing just fine! Shoshona will be tending her first garden next summer.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No. 3 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society March/April 1988

PHILADELPHIA GREEN HONORED

Blaine Bonham, Director and **Willie Mae Bullock** and **Sharon Turner**, past and current Chairs of the Advisory Board, are representing PHILADELPHIA GREEN at the American Horticultural Society's (AHS) Annual meeting in Atlanta.

They will be there to accept the Urban Beautification Award given annually by AHS to an institution which has made significant contributions to urban horticulture. Thank you to all the gardeners who have made this possible.

JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW

PHILADELPHIA GREEN presents the best Junior Flower Show ever - ***"Storybook Gardens,"*** Thurs., April 21-Sun., April 24 at the First Bank, on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Sts. (see hours on calendar).

With 35 teachers participating in workshops and school visits over the winter, we are expecting a record number of entries in the Show.This free show will offer visitors a chance to plant a seedling, see live animals, hear a storyteller and see the wonderful plants and arrangements made by students from Kindergarten through 12th grade in the Delaware Valley.

A new greening project on Point Breeze Avenue.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Eileen Gray, Greene Countrie Town Coordinator

For the past eight years, PHILADELPHIA GREEN has worked closely with **Mamie Nichols, Haroldine Trower**, and members of **The Point Breeze Federation** to fulfill their dream of greening Point Breeze. Today, residents of the Point Breeze Greene Countrie Towne are extremely proud of their efforts.

While greening projects were getting off to such a good start in the residential part of the neighborhood, Nichols looked to the business community to create opportunities for improving several commercial strips in the area.

The relationship that the Federation formed with Philadelphia National Bank is a working model of community and business interaction. The partnership has been responsible for several projects, particularly along the Point Breeze Avenue shopping corridor, established 1920. The Federation and PNB have improved the appearance of the avenue, encouraging local residents to *"Shop Point Breeze"*.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN, with assistance from the Phila-Job kids, has started the renovation of two vacant sites on the avenue. These had already been cleared of debris and the foundations for sitting gardens were established. Look for splashes of color this spring from the daffodils and flowering shrubs planted last fall. This year we hope to add more greenery to the avenue to help create a pleasing atmosphere that will encourage residents to *"Shop Point Breeze"*.

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. I have a small space in the back of my rowhouse. Can I have a garden there?

A. Anyone can have a backyard garden. Exactly what you can grow in a small space leads to more questions for you to answer. Do you want to grow flowers, herbs or vegetables? How much sun is there? Does the soil have good drainage? Here is a book to use as reference to help you decide. **Ortho's Small Space Gardens**.

Q. Why would my neighbor scuff up his okra seeds with a nail file before planting them?

A. Probably to help them sprout easier. Okra seeds are very hard and this process will help germination.

Q. I let my house plants "rest" during the winter - less water and no fertilizer. When can I repot these plants and start fertilizing them?

A. Now is the best time to repot, propagate, prune, resume fertilizing and generally pamper your houseplants. Chances are, you won't have much time once outdoor planting starts.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

It's happening at last! Spring is here with plenty to celebrate in March and April at the Philadelphia Flower Show, the Reading Terminal Market 95th Birthday Party, National Garden Week, the Junior Flower Show, and Arbor Day. Wow! Have a wonderful time!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

1988 FLOWER SHOW

The members of the Flower Show exhibit committee helped staff select the theme for this year's PHILADELPHIA GREEN exhibit ***"Community Gardening - A Patchwork of Roots."***

Anne Vallery did a super job in designing another imaginative exhibit that told the story of PHILADELPHIA GREEN's ethnic gardens to Flower Show visitors.

Thank yous go to the committee and the many volunteers who stood at the exhibit to answer questions about PHILADELPHIA GREEN.

FLOWER SHOW EXHIBIT COMMITTEE:

Ruth Flounders, Chair
Blanche Epps
Rena Ennis
JoAnn Fishburn
Edna Jones
James LaRosa
Brenda Nealy
John Providence
Veronica Whiten
Cecilia Yep
Sharon Turner, ex-officio

GARDEN DAY

Imagine celebrating spring with a whole day of workshops, tours, children's activities, a plant and garden supplies sale and food!

Saturday, May 7th is the date for this first-ever event at the Horticulture Center in Farimount Park, from 10 AM to 2 PM. We will send a flyer in early April with more information and pre-order sheet.

Plan on meeting other gardeners, having fun, getting excellent prices on plants and supplies, and learning lots of new gardening ideas.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

MARCH 1988

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW	14	15	16 READING TERMINAL MARKET 95TH BIRTHDAY (THROUGH 3/19) COME SEE US THERE!!	17 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY	18 PLANT: PEAS ONIONS SPINACH	19 GARDEN CORPS STARTS
20	21	22 REPOT HOUSE PLANTS	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 APRIL WILL BE BUSY- TAKE A DEEP BREATH!!		

SEE PHILADELPHIA GREEN EXHIBIT

FULL MOON 3rd

LAST QUARTER 11th

NEW MOON 17th

FIRST QUARTER 24th

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

APRIL 1988

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 GOOD FRIDAY	2
3 EASTER	4	5 PLANT BEETS	6	7	8	9
10 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW 1-5:00	22 9-5:00	23 10-5:00
24 JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW 10-2:00	25	26	27	28	29 ARBOR DAY HUG A TREE	30

CULTIVATING KIDS

At a terrarium workshop the other day, I realized that children have trouble answering the question, ***"What is soil and how is it made?"***

Soil is composed of different things depending on the place it comes from. Looking carefully at the soil, you can see pieces of rock that have been broken down over many hundreds of years. We have plenty of soft limestone around Philadelphia. Limestone breaks down quickly compared to some of the other harder rocks. When the rock breaks down to fine powder, as it does here, the soil is heavy, compact, and is considered a clay soil. Large particles, like beach sand will make a lighter soil.

Another part of soil is the organic matter, remains of once living things such as leaves, roots, insects and animals. Soil also contains minerals which help feed the plants. The last part is oxygen, the space between the soil particles, which plants need to grow.

Rock, organic matter, minerals and oxygen combine in different ways to make soil. Have the chilldren collect soil from different places around the neighborhood and look at it under a magnifying glass. Have them make some comparisons. Try growing the same kind of plants in different soils to see how they might be affected.

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Announcing something new for the 1988 Harvest Show Challenge Class.

Competitors will grow a ***"Flower Tower"*** (flowers planted in a vertical container). Both plants and materials will be provided by PHS. Pre-registered individuals will be required to attend a workshop on Saturday, May 7th at the Horticulture Center. Entries will be accepted on a first come basis. To pre-register, fill out the tear off and return to address below. Confirmation and further details will then be sent.

Flossie Narducci
PHS - 325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

- tear here -

NAME_____ PHONE #_____

ADDRESS_____ ZIP CODE_____

I will attend the Challenge Class workshop on May 7th at 10 AM at the Horticulture Center to receive the ***"Flower Tower"*** materials.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

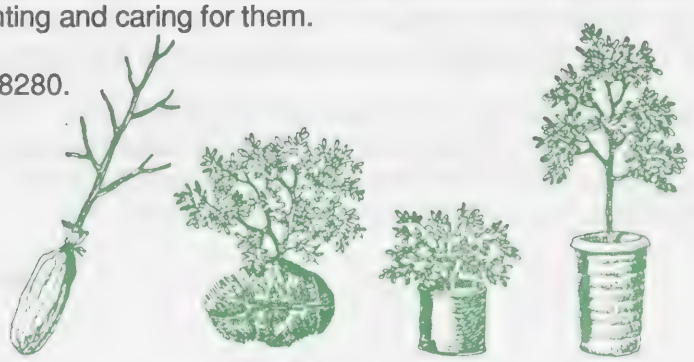
FRUIT TREES

Spring is a very good time to plant fruit trees. City gardeners who want to grow fruit should think about planting dwarf varieties which grow only 6 to 8 feet and take up less space than standard trees. Another advantage to dwarf trees is that they start bearing fruit in only two to three years.

Certain fruit trees must be planted in pairs for fruit to develop. Others can be planted alone. Be sure to find out which is which when you go to buy them.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN would be happy to answer any questions you have about selecting varieties for your garden, as well as planting and caring for them.

Call Sally McCabe or Jeff Myers at 625-8280.



GARDEN CORPS

An enthusiastic class of gardeners are starting the first PHILADELPHIA GREEN advanced gardening series. This six week course is being taught by gardening experts from institutions around the Philadelphia area, including the Morris Arboretum and Bryn Mawr College. Participants will also go on several field trips as part of this free course.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No.4 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society May 1988

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia Greening Project Update

Work is underway on the West Philadelphia Greening Project. Four designated communities have been selected, with some projects already in gear for this spring in Market South, Belmont, Mantua and Millcreek.

Staff has met with community leaders ***Evelyn James*** (Belmont), ***Jimmy Allen*** (Mantua), ***Charles Wingfield*** (Millcreek), ***Fred Green*** (Walnut Hill) and ***Art McMorris*** (Spruce Hill) to discuss the development of front yards, plan lotscapes and plant garden blocks in their areas.

Gardeners involved in the greening project attended a garden management workshop to discuss ways of organizing new and improving existing gardens.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff had a number of terrarium workshops and will hold four workshops entitled "Creative Gardening with Flowers, Vegetables and Shrubs". The season will finish in June with a workshop on frontyard gardening.

Denise Jefferson, Coordinator
Susan Ross, Assistant Coordinator

The upper 800 block of north 20th and north Uber Streets, site of the 1987 Francisville celebration.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Francisville - Olivia Lehman, Coordinator

The continued beautification of Francisville is still an important and interesting challenge for its' gardeners and the staff here at PHILADELPHIA GREEN. Memory Lane and the very successful Francisville celebration was last year's primary focus. This year's plans involve the large lot at 20th and Fairmount. The beginning efforts are certainly encouraging: the lot's huge sailboat mural was chosen for the cover of Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network's annual report and the March 12th clean-up day was a huge success. We'd like to thank ***Anne Dresher*** from Teen Haven for providing bags and tools for the clean-up. We'd also like to thank ***Josephine Benetez, Nilsa Gonzalez, Connie Coleman, Anne Krinsky, Melinda Johnson, Janet Ferrell*** and all the great kids from 20th Street who did the hard work.

The first site design meeting, held in February, produced some exciting ideas: a brick patio with benches and flower borders will complement the existing diagonal path. We look forward to seeing the lot at 20th and Fairmount emerge, providing even more beauty for this special neighborhood.

Keep your eyes peeled! That mound of soil beneath the mural will be surprising you soon, with flowers popping up any day now!

CELEBRATE CHAMPLOST

Friday, June 3rd is the day residents of the Philadelphia Housing Authority's (PHA) **Champlost Homes** will have a chance to show the rest of the city how neighborhood pride and cooperation can make a tremendous difference.

Juanita Wooten, Coordinator and ***Deborah Hall***, Garden Assistant, have worked with residents over the past two years to plant rock gardens, wine barrels, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and flowers.

Everyone is invited to help celebrate the tenants' success on Friday, June 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at **Champlost Homes**, 20th and Champlost Streets.

Demonstrations on tree care, plant selection and landscaped slopes are some of the subjects to be offered at various sites around Champlost that day.Representatives of various organizations will be on hand for the 2:00 dedication ceremony. Refreshments will also be served.

NEW COLUMN

From time to time there will be non-horticultural information we feel is important to our gardeners. This material will appear in the green box under the title " Food For Thought".

DEAR FRIENDS:

Join us May 7th at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park from 10 AM to 2 PM for gardening demonstrations, children's activities and the Plant and Garden Supplies Sale. It's a good way to start off the season.

More gardening demonstrations will be given on Friday, June 3rd from 1 to 4 PM at Champlost Homes, with special focus on maintenance ideas for challenging sites. Have a great season!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

STAFF NEWS

Barbara Wagner, until recently the Coordinator for District I is now the Coordinator for Susquehanna, PHILADELPHIA GREEN's newest Greene Countrie Towne.

Melinda Johnson, who graduated from last year's Intern class, has been hired as garden assistant working with ***Denise Jefferson*** and ***Susan Ross*** in District II.

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS SOIL TESTING

The Horticulture Department at **Abraham Lincoln High School** is offering soil analysis as a public service for city residents. For the cost of $1.00, students will test soil type, soil Ph and recommend ways to improve the soil for lawns, flower or vegetable gardens, trees or shrubs.

To receive a copy of the easy-to-use form, call Betty Tyler, 625-8280.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The first Philadelphia AIDS SUMMIT will take place Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

It will be held at : Bonnell Building
Community College of Philadelphia
16th & Spring Garden Streets

W. Wilson Goode will be there to lend his support to this summit on "Aids and The Neighborhoods".

Everyone is invited to attend this day of free workshops which are co-sponsored by eight concerned groups, including PHILADELPHIA GREEN.

ON THE VINE

Flossie

SHOW OFF YOUR BLOOMERS in the 1988 City Gardens Contest!

As a contestant, you may win one of many prizes. To enter, fill out the entry brochure that was sent to you last week with your plant and garden supplies order forms.

Sign on as a judge as well. See what other city gardeners are growing, share your gardening experiences and make new gardening friends. Fill out the judges' application and return it with your entry.

For more information call Flossie at 625-8280.

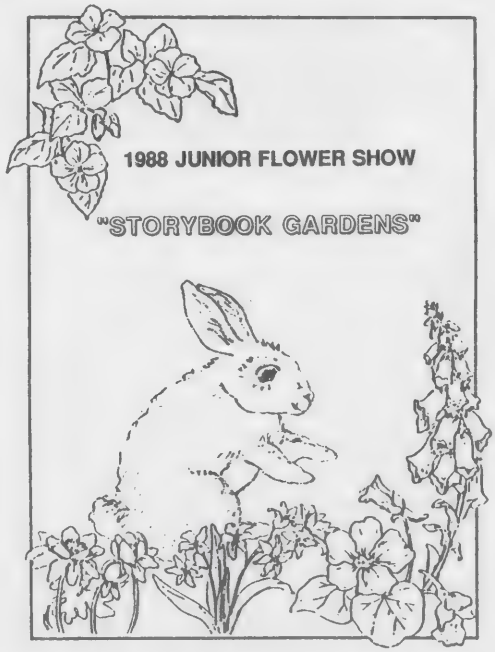
CULTIVATING KIDS

A garden holds opportunities that can help unite different generations. Playing in the dirt, smelling the soil, vegetables and flowers warmed by the sun, feeling the thrill of seeing the plants take form from seed and grow are pleasures to be enjoyed by gardeners of all ages.

Since children love to imitate adults, they can help you with jobs like choosing plants from brightly colored catalogs, planting seeds and transplants, and watering the garden plot. You can encourage them to eat the vegetables they help care for and nurture in them the art of careful observation.

This year's Junior Flower Show and its theme ***"Storybook Gardens"*** reminded me to read two gardening-related books, Peter Rabbit and The Secret Garden. Both books are over 50 years old and still as much fun and relevant to read as ever.

Adults can share so much with children in the garden. Children can teach so much to us in return about wonder, patience and happiness.



Mistress Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Companion Planting

Some plants seem to grow well side by side and even help each other repel insects, while other plants do poorly if grown together. Although there is often debate about this subject, it is clear that the more we know and observe about our plants, the better gardeners we will be.

Parsley and **asparagus** are two plants that seem to be stronger if grown together.

Basil protects **tomatoes** from insects and diseases and helps promote better flavor.

Carrots promote better growth in **beans**. Keep **beans** away from all members of the **onion** family.

Plant **marigolds** in **bean** rows to repel the mexican bean beetle.

Beets grow well near **bushbeans** and **onions**, but not **pole beans**.

Broccoli does well with many herbs - **dill**, **sage**, **rosemary** and **peppermint** - as well as **potatoes**, **beans** and **onions**. Never plant **broccoli** with **tomatoes**, **pole beans** or **strawberries**.

Onions, **leeks**, **rosemary**, **wormwood** and **sage** repel the carrot fly.

Tomatoes interplanted with **collards** will keep the flea bettle away.

Cucumbers dislike **potatoes** but **radish** seeds planted in **cucumber** hills will protect against cucumber beetles.

Peas grow well with **carrots**, **corn**, **beans** and **turnips**.

These are just a few suggestions for companion planting. If you have any special tips to share, please call Betty Tyler, 625-8280. Once we've collected a few more, we will have a special article on plant tips from PHILADELPHIA GREEN gardeners.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.9, No. 5 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society June 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WEST SHORE

Spring has arrived, bringing out that old gardening fever. The gardeners in the Greene Countrie Towne of West Shore are bursting with energy and plans for a big spruce up.

The West Shore triangle will take on a new glow this summer as one of the locations for a new project called "Ribbon of Gold". In 1986, the Foundation for Architecture sponsored a competition aimed at improving the look of the city. One of the winning plans, "Ribbon of Gold," described the city ablaze with golden flowers every summer. The golden flowers will become a link between the neighborhoods, adding to Philadelphia's distinct and memorable character. Communities will be encouraged to participate and help enliven Philadelphia's visual image.

Thanks to ***Helen Feggans***, another new project started this spring with the Alexander Wilson School. We will be working with the school's Science Department to encourage children's gardening experiences. About 35 students planted terrariums at a recent workshop. We received many letters from the kids thanking us "for helping us explore nature... The best part about the project was putting my hands in the soil and stones... I hope we see you soon because plants are fun to do." While we continue working at Wilson School, we will also encourage West Shore's gardeners to invest in the future of community gardening by sharing their experience and knowledge with these eager minds and bodies.

And that's the news from West Shore.

Picture this spot as a "ribbon of gold".

SUSQUEHANNA

Glenwood Green Acres, the community garden at 18th and Glenwood, with 96 plots is one of the largest PHILADELPHIA GREEN gardens. The back edge of the garden parallels the Amtrak and Septa tracks above a steep slope. Since the garden was first established, this slope has been a real challenge for the gardeners to maintain.

Recently, the gardeners, headed by ***James Taylor*** and the Greene Countrie Towne staff, decided to plant a "Ribbon of Gold" there as a low maintenance answer to this problem site. The slope was cleaned off and a controlled burning cleared all the weeds from the area. The slope was graded and wood ash as well as other organic matter was spread to make a bed for the seeds and plants of coreopsis, daylilies and Black-eyed Susans. Before long, these golden flowers will greet train riders and gardeners alike.

Next month, we will report more about the "Ribbon of Gold" as it appears in other city neighborhoods.

Eileen Gray, Coordinator

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. I want to mulch my tomatoes. Should I have done it when I put the plants in the ground? When is it too late?

A. Gardeners make a mistake if they mulch too early. Tomatoes need heat for good growth and early mulching with clippings or straw will keep the soil too cool. The best time to mulch is right after the flowers and first fruit form. Mulching will keep the moisture and temperature of the soil more even and reduce blossom end rot and cracking.

Q. I'm always leaving my trowel somewhere in the garden and forgetting where it is. What can I do to remember it?

A. Paint the handle red or yellow. The bright color will show up well against the soil.

Q. I'd like to reuse my coffee grounds. What plants like them best?

A. Sprinkle the grounds on the soil around roses, melons and carrots. Coffee grounds contain nutrients and keep away pests like aphids, and, in some cases, borers.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

To those of you who have already entered your garden in the City Gardens Contest, good luck! And to everyone else - send in your form **before June 10th** so you can be part of the fun.

Here's to a great season!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

NEW STAFF

Greene Countrie Towne has hired two garden assistants for the busy gardening season. ***George Ropars***, who worked for PHILA. GREEN last year, is assisting ***Eileen Gray*** in Point Breeze and West Shore. ***Ken Suber*** will be working with ***Barbara Wagner*** in Susquehanna.

Verlene Johnson, a graduate intern, has been hired to work part time in District I with ***Winfred Young***, Program Assistant.

GARDEN CORPS

Twenty-eight gardeners recently completed a six session training program called the PHILADELPHIA GREEN Garden Corps. Already equipped with basic gardening skills, the participants were anxious to acquire more advanced training.

The group of enthusiastic men and women travelled to Bryn Mawr college for a pruning demonstration, attended a cold frame construction workshop, made many cuttings and divisions of perennials at the propagation workshop, sampled wonderful mixtures in the session on herbs, and took oceans of notes from the lectures on pests and diseases and succession planting. A number of field trips and workshops will be scheduled during the summer and fall for this group.

If the Garden Corps sounds right for you, call Betty Tyler at 625-8280 to get on next year's applicant list.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Natural Household Helpers

Instead of buying commercial air freshener, try:
- potpourri
- open dish of vinegar (good for smoke)
- simmering cinnamon and cloves on the stove

Instead of buying a carpet deodorizer, try:
- sprinkling baking soda on the carpet and waiting 30 minutes before vacuuming

Instead of using a silver cleaner, try:
- 1 quart of warm water mixed with 1 teaspoon baking soda and 2 teaspoons of salt

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

JUNE 1988

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 CHAMPLOST CELEBRATION AT 20TH AND CHAMPLOST 1:00-4:00 P.M. CEREMONY AT 2:00 P.M.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 TO KEEP CAULIFLOWER HEADS TENDER AND WHITE COVER THE HEADS WITH SIDE LEAVES AND TIE IN PLACE
12	13	14 IF YOU ARE SOWING BUSH BEANS NOW, PLANT TWICE AS DEEP IN MAY BECAUSE OF DRIER SOIL IN THE SUMMER MONTHS	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 TRANSPLANT TOMATO "VOLUNTEERS" - SEEDLINGS YOU DIDN'T PLANT. THEY'RE USUALLY EXTRA GOOD FOR A LATE CROP.
26	27 PINCH OFF 1/2 " OF NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM GROWTH TO ENCOURAGE BRANCHING	28	29	30		

TREE CORPS

Hal Rosner, former PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff member, is this summer's Tree Corps coordinator. Hal is a professional arborist who is attending graduate school at Temple University. He will conduct two series of Tree Corps training sessions for city residents who want to learn about street tree care. Hal will also offer neighborhood street tree care workshops around the city so that street trees have a better chance in their battle against heat, insects and low rainfall. If you would like to sign up your block for a summer workshop, call Hal Rosner at 625-8280.

THE JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW'S *STORYBOOK GARDENS*

A lima bean plant sporting mature beans and a picture of the grower "planted" alongside, a safari hat for Peter Rabbit, covered with tasty grasses and plants, and a perfectly planted and landscaped terrarium complete with gravel path were some of the wonderfully creative entries that stood out at this year's Junior Flower Show in late April.

It was a super show! All of the horticultural and artistic classes were arranged around the centerpiece that illustrated the shows' theme, Storybook Gardens. A large open book with a quotation from "The Secret Garden" framed a garden filled with lots of colorful flowers and shrubs.

Visiting children potted up tiny begonia plants, watched while animals from the Academy of Natural Sciences were introduced to them, sang along with an environmental folk singer and listened to stories. Adults took home free Jackson and Perkins rose bushes with the compliments of PHILADELPHIA GREEN and The Rorer Group.

We give special thanks to the Junior Flower Show committee members including ***Natalie Kempner, Blanche Epps, Iris Brown, Veronica Whiten, Tomasita Romero*** and ***Trudl Fuchs***. The committee and staff, led by ***Anne Vallery*** as Show Manager, did an especially good job developing a Show that featured such a fine variety of junior horticultural achievements.

This golden beet won first place in the Challenge Class for these students.

Three of the seed masks that the judges found "very artistic" and thought "showed great creativity".

Meredith School's 4th grade surrounds the large storybook and garden which greeted visitors to the Show.

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Strike up the Band!

"Autumn Harmony" is the theme for the 1988 Harvest Show. Here are some tunes to provide you with inspiration for this year's Baked Goods class.

1. *If I knew you were comin' I'd have baked a cake* - **Carrot Cake,** *that is.*

2. *When the moon hits your eye like a bigga* **Squasha Pie. ***

3. *Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme* - for your **Herb Biscuits.**

To pre-register, call Flossie at 625-8280.

* Suggested varieties of Squash for Pies

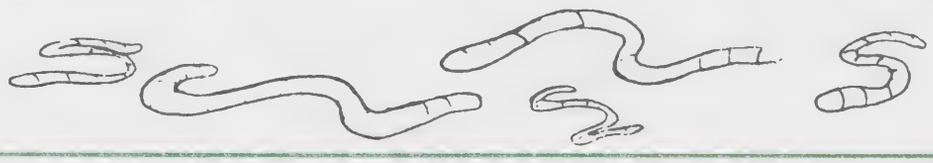
Gold Nugget - Bush	Acorn Table Queen - Bush	Green Cushaw - Vine
Buttercup - Bush	Sweet Dumpling - 1/2 Vine	Tahitian - Vine
Delicata - Vine	Red Kuri - Vine	Butternut - Bush

CULTIVATING KIDS

Worms - kids either love or hate them! As with most things, once children really understand what worms are about, they are more likely to treat them as an important part of life rather than hurting them. Worms add so much to garden soil. They keep the soil loose by making tunnels and, their castings (excrement) adds nutrients.

Once you learn about what worms do for your garden, then it's time to grow them. In the city, a metal can or plastic bucket makes a good container for worm growing. Cover the top with screening that will let in air, light and moisture but not dogs or cats. Add healthy clippings from the garden mixed with kitchen wastes (no meat products please), manure, soil and used coffee grounds. (Use equal proportions of soil, manure and clippings or waste and 1 cup of coffee grounds.) Let this mixture sit in the container for a few days, then add about 6 worms. Every few days, add more kitchen waste and clippings. Stir once a week and keep the mixture moist. In just a short time, you'll have lots of worms.

After one month, mix some of the worms and compost into the garden soil. If the soil is healthy, the worms will stay and improve the soil. If it is poor soil, the worms will die or move to another part of the garden.



DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Herbal Teas

Do you pronounce it *"erb"* or *"herb"*? Either way these wonderful plants can make cooling iced teas - one of the joys of summer. Herbal teas are especially healthful because they lack the caffeine of regular teas.

Generally leaves are used to make teas. Mints like spearmint, peppermint and applemint, lemon-flavored herbs like lemon thyme, lemon verbena and lemon balm, blackberry and bee balm are all great tasting and cooling in the summer heat. Flowers that can be made into teas are soothing chamomile, calendula, hibiscus and rose.

To make tea, use a tablespoon of the fresh or dried herbs to boiling water and let it sit for 5 to 10 minutes. An alternative to heating water on the stove is to put the flowers or leaves in a clear glass container filled with cold water and place it in a sunny spot for 6 hours to steep. When tea is finished add ice cubes and take along to the garden.

After working hard in the sunny garden, bring the leftover tea inside and soak two cotton balls or gauze pads in it. Take off your shoes, lie down, close your eyes and cover them with tea-soaked pads. You'll find yourself more relaxed and your eyes will quickly recover from the sun's glare and extreme heat.

THE SCHOOL FOR CITIZENS

The Institute For The Study of Civic Values has many classes that are developed for neighborhood leaders and non-profit organizations. Workshops are held on subjects ranging from "Financial Management for Beginners" through "Conflict Resolution."

The Institute also sponsors special events such as the "Aids and the Neighborhoods" Summit and "Literacy Tutor Training."

For more information on these $5.00 sessions, call 922-8960.

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Betty Tyler
Graphics and Layout: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No.6. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society July / August

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Champlost

Juanita Wooten- PHA Coordinator

Working collectively for the benefit of the community, the residents of Champlost Homes are ready to show off their successful greening projects to the rest of Philadelphia.

Joyce Richardson and ***Daisy Mae Hill***, Tenant Coordinators, worked with ***Juanita Wooten*** and ***Deborah Hall*** to inspire the residents and design an overall plan for the neighborhood.

One area that was totally transformed was an abandoned parking lot. With ***Viola Wade*** in the lead, residents changed the area into a colorful sitting garden that won a prize in the 1987 City Gardens Contest. Neighbors also performed miracles on an eroded slope, turning it into a lovely hillside rock garden. The neighborhood is filled to the brim with vegetables, flowers, herbs and colorful wine barrels.

Special thanks to Tenant Council President ***Marlene Lynch*** for supporting a project which exhibits such tremendous unity and hard work between Champlost residents.

Juanita Wooten, PHA coordinator, and residents admire Champlost's bulb planting.

District One

District I has a new garden in its area that shows the ethnic diversity in Philadelphia's neighborhoods.The garden on the northeast corner of Norris and Palethorpe Streets is in the heart of the Norris Square community. This area has a high concentration of gardens, and the community is very proud of this achievement.

Father Ryzard Hermanowicz had a vision for his block. He saw the four-house lot on the corner transformed into a special garden where the Polish, Italian, Spanish and Afro-American residents could raise food, enjoy flowers and be together.

After the City and Norris Square Civic Association gave permission to use the lots, the trash and auto parts piled waist high were collected by ***Dominic Fusco*** and hauled away. Soon, residents ***Carmen Negron, Doris Roja, Helen Ciekalski,*** and ***Lenora Withrow*** started working together. These folks were joined by a group of enthusiastic children - ***Chris, Alejandor, Jun, Edwin, Willy, Virgilio, Joey, Wilson, Edgar*** and ***Frank*** who provided both energy and laughter.

They named the garden **Bonita Polana** *"pretty meadow*," a combination of Spanish and Polish words that describe the garden. With flowering crabapple tree, strawberry and raspberry plants, raised beds for vegetables and flowers and benches, this lovely oasis is a pleasant spot for everyone to enjoy. The vision of Father Hermanowicz to have a truly ethnic garden, has become a reality and is another important piece in the patchwork of Norris Square.

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. My blackeye pea plants are large and have many leaves, but no peas pods. Can you tell me why?

A. If the blackeye peas are fed with a plant food too high in nitrogen, they will put all their energy into growing leaves and not fruit.

Q. What do the numbers on a fertilizer label mean?

A. The numbers refer to the three most important ingredients plants need to grow well. The first number is the percentage of nitrogen which helps develop strong green leaves. Phosphorous is the second number on the label and is important in building strong roots systems. The third number is potash which helps produce fruit and flowers. So 5-10-5 is 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorous, and 5% potash.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

One of my favorite past times on SEPTA is to see how the gardens are growing along my route. Most mornings, unless I'm already asleep, I watch for 17th and Tononto, Glenwood Green Acres, West Hagert's Glenwood Court, Cecil B. Moore and Clarence Thorpe Memorial Garens. Once I've seen my fill of these beautiful gardens, I settle back and enjoy the rest of the ride. I often wonder how many other garden lovers may be doing exactly the same thing.

Have a great summer!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

WE'RE SORRY TO SEE YOU GO

Ruth Flounders, a very committed Advisory Board member, recently moved from Philadelphia to a farm upstate.

Ruth worked with ***Frank Kieser*** for many years as Co-Chair of the Harvest Show Committee. She was also on the Flower Show Committee and served as Chair for the 1988 Show. We will remember her gentleness, patience, herb expertise, generous sharing of plants and recipes, and her wonderful scarecrow doll that appeared in many shows.

We look forward to Ruth's visits to Philadelphia and her stories about "rural life".

NEW STAFF

We welcome ***Eva Ray***, who joins PHILADELPHIA GREEN as Assistant to the Director. Eva was Director of Development at Antioch University in Philadelphia. She will be writing grants and reports, giving general support to Blaine and working with the Advisory Board.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Happy 1st Birthday to the ***Philadelphia Ranger Corps!*** Last July, a group of concerned citizens established this non-profit program to train and educate a number of Philadelphia public and parochial school graduates.

As Fairmount Park rangers, the Ranger Corps will help park visitors become familiar with and enjoy the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources within the park.

GARDEN DAY

May 7 brought beautiful weather and a crowd to Garden Day at the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park to...

Load up their vehicles with wine barrels, peat moss and other garden supplies.

Learn how to grow plants bigger and better.

Pick up the neighborhoods' preordered plants and supplies and deliver them to the eager gardeners.

Learn how to make "Flower Towers" for the Harvest Show Challenge Class.

Join in children's activities.

CENTER CITY GREENING UPDATE

In the fall issue of the newsletter we introduced ***Barbara Olejnik*** and said she would be working with PHS staff, Council members and professionals in Philadelphia to green "public" areas of the city. Plans have been made and three projects are underway.

Visitors to the **Philadelphia Civic Center** are enjoying the new look of the area in front of the building. In the plaza area, new concrete planters filled with annuals surround the fountain. At the corner of Civic Center Boulevard and Convention Avenue, a new planting of shrubs and perennials creates an inviting entrance - especially for those people who attend the Philadelphia Flower Show.

The much loved **Azalea Garden** in the back of the Art Museum will soon be better than ever! PHS donated the garden to the city in the early 1950's and is anxious to have it restored. In May, garden club members, PHS, Friends Hospital and Fairmount Park staffs pruned the area. Starting in the fall and continuing into the spring of 1989, new sidewalks will be built and more flowering trees, shrubs and bulbs will be added so the garden will be beautiful in all seasons.

The third project that is gaining speed is the study of the **26th Street/Platt Bridge** area where many visitors get their introduction to Philadelphia. The private and public organizations that have interestes in the area are talking about ways of replacing rubbish and litter with wildflowers, grasses, trees and shrubs. Won't it be wonderful to drive by this area and feel a sense of pride in what can be done in Philadelphia?

PHILADELPHIA'S LAND TRUST

Bruce Wiggins was appointed Executive Director of the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). Until that time, Bruce was Senior Community Planner for North Philadelphia with the Philadelphia Planning Commission.

NGA is a non-profit organization that will help insure the continuity of community gardens so important to Philadelphia's neighborhoods. Bruce is currently identifying gardens in danger of being lost because of development. Once these are identified, NGA will try to acquire the land through pruchase or donation. The acquired property will then be leased to active community gardeners.

Since Philadelphia hosts the most concentrated greening effort of any city in the United States, this new organization is an important step forward in keeping Philadelphia green.

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLANT CUCUMBERS!	2
3	4 HOLIDAY	5	6 PLANT SNAP BEANS FOR FALL HARVEST	7	8	9 MULCH FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES
10	11	12	13	14 LOOK FOR "SAWDUST" UNDER A HOLE IN THE SQUASH VINE IT'S A BORER. CUT AT THE HOLE AND REMOVE THE BORER.	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 PLANT BEETS AND TURNIPS FOR FALL HARVEST
24	25	26 PLANT BROCCOLI FOR FALL HARVEST	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 PICK ZUCCHINI AND OTHER SUMMER SQUASH WHEN SMALL AND TENDER	11	12	13
14 CITY GARDENS CONTEST TOUR 1:00-3:00 P.M.	15 LAST DAY TO FEED ROSES	16	17	18	19	20 PLANT LETTUCE SPINACH AND MUSTARD FOR FALL HARVEST
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 WEED ASPARAGUS AND SCATTER 5-10-5 FERTILIZER ON THE SOIL			

NEW SPRING GARDENING PROJECTS

LOTSCAPES

Point Breeze

17th & Latona Streets
2249 Wharton Street
1434 S Ringgold Street
2127 Federal Street

Francisville

1923 Parrish Street
1921 Parrish Street

Susquehanna

1501-03 Firth Street
2401 Gratz Street
16th & Lehigh Avenue
2143-47 N 19th Street
2509 N Colorado Street
2334 N Van Pelt Street
2200-02 N Van Pelt Street
2144 Glenwood Avenue

Strawberry Mansion

2429-33 Marston Street
2814-18 Newkirk Street
2329 N 29th Street
2922-24 Westmont Street

GARDEN BLOCKS

Point Breeze

1700 Federal Street
1500 S Woodstock Street
2100 Alter/Ellsworth Streets
2100 Titan Street

Susquehanna

2300 Woodstock Street
2200 Woodstock Street
2000 N 20th Street
2100 N Van Pelt Street
2300 N Beechwood Street
1900 Diamond Street
2200 Lambert Street
2300 N 20th Street
2300 N Van Pelt Street
16th & Lehigh Avenue
1600 Fontain Street

Strawberry Mansion

2100 Newkirk Street
2900 Susquehanna Avenue
2900 Sedgley Street
1900 Hollywood Street
2000 Etting Street
2900 Westmont Street
2000 N 20th Street
2900 Diamond Street
2900 West Gordon Street
2400 Marston Street

WEST PHILADELPHIA PROJECT and DISTRICT 2

Garden Blocks

4900 Reno Street
4700 Spruce Street
4800 Olive Street
4100 Pennsgrove Street
200 S 45th Street
4100 Ludlow Street
400 Mercy Street
200 N Hobart Street
5900 Irving Street
100 61st Street
500 Greenwich Street
5000 Osage Avenue
6100 Sansom Street
700 S 60th Street
4641 Westminster Avenue

Lotscapes

4100 Pennsgrove Street

DISTRICT I

Lotscapes

2091 E Clementine Street
2310 N 25th Street
1619-25 17th Street
2501 W Oxford Street
309 W Cecil B Moore Avenue
2255 N Howard Street
2258 N Hope Street
633 W Diamond Street
3473-75 Dillman Street
3333-35 N 19th Street
1127 W Venango Street
3437 W Clearfield Street
SW Corner Meadow & Hedge Streets
1271 N Dover Street
2400 W Sergeant Street
1938 N 24th Street
1764-66 N 28th Street
2300 W Sergeant Street
NE Corner Wingahocking & Unity Streets
1234-38 N 6th Street
1740-46 Edwin Street
SW Corner Marshall & Tioga Streets

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Harvest Show Highlights

THROUGH A HARVEST WINDOW
This is a new class replacing Harvest Tables that will be staged to reflect the bounty of community gardens.

A window will be centered in an area 6' x 6' with one side reflecting the exterior of a home and the other side representing a room. Props, provided by PHS will include the window, a small wine barrel, window box, bales of hay and units to exhibit vegetables, flowers, preserved products, etc. Visitors will be able to view the displays from both sides. If this sounds like a good opportunity to show off the best of your garden and your creative talents too, send in your registration by July 1. This class is limited to 6 entries.

CONTAINER CLASSES
Plan to bring some container-grown entries to the Show. Judges look for healthy, well-groomed plants. Since your entry will be "on stage" and seen by thousands of visitors, you'll want it to look its best. Remember to:

turn pots to encourage even growth
be alert for pests, and control by hand picking whenever possible
scrub and clean pots to remove any dirt or mineral deposits
repot if container is broken or chipped
remove any dead leaves or blossoms that have collected on the top of the soil

CULTIVATING KIDS

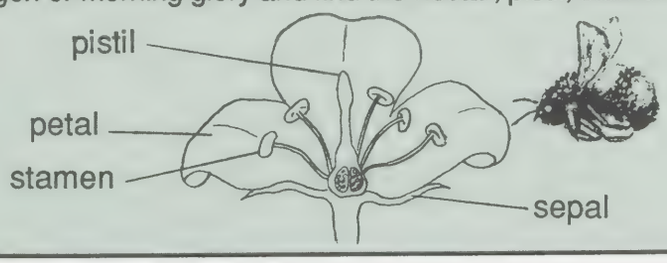
FLOWERS

Teaching children about flowers will help them appreciate the natural world even better. Here are some ideas for helping their understanding.

All the colors of the rainbow can be seen in flowers growing around the city. Ask the children how many different colors of flowers they can see on their block - in window boxes, wine barrels, vegetable and flower gardens, vacant lots and cracks in the sidewalk.

Flowers grow to help the plants make seeds. Bright colors and sweet smells attract insects to the flowers. An insect will land on a flower to drink its sweet ***nectar*** from the center where the ***pistil*** is surrounded by the ***stamens***. At the bottom of the pistil is the pod that holds the undeveloped seeds. When the insect sips the sticky nectar, ***pollen***, a powder on the ends of the stamen, catches on its body. When the insect visits the next flower, some pollen will rub off on the pistil. When the pollen mixes with the undeveloped seeds, ***fertilization*** is the result, and seeds are ready to reproduce.

Ask the children to sit quietly and watch a bee or other insect go through this process. Have them pick a petunia, snapdragon or morning glory and find the nectar, pistil, stamen and pollen. Isn't nature amazing?



DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Pests and Diseases

This is the time of year many gardeners are finding pest and disease problems in their gardens. Philadelphia's wet spring and the approaching periods of heat and drought can mean trouble for flowers and vegetables.

When you do have a problem and you can't identify it through books or friends, call the PHS Horticultural Hotline, 922-8043, Mon. through Fri., 9:30 am to 12 noon and describe the pest or disease and the plant that is affected. The next step is to decide whether the problem is easily solved or at least tolerable. If the problem is not serious, hand picking insects or spraying with a hot pepper/water solution may be enough.

If you think a chemical must be used, be sure you choose one made for the specific problem. Read the label carefully to see what danger it might present to humans, plants and animals. If you then make a decision to use a chemcial, use only the amount suggested on the label and decide if there might be a bigger problem if the chemical is used.
Try to prevent problems by selecting plants that are resistant to pests and diseases, rotating crops each year, and keeping the garden cleaned up.

Pearl Romans, of West Philadelphia, sent in the following hint. To prevent cabbage moth damage, place old pantyhose around your cabbage heads. The stockings will stretch as the heads grow and stop the moths from laying eggs.

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Patricia Schrieber
Writer: Betty Tyler
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No.7 PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society September 1988

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

West Philadelphia Greening Project

Denise Jefferson, Coordinator

Two unique lotscapes are among the first projects underway as part of the West Philadelphia Greening Project, a collaborative effort involving the West Philadelphia Partnership, University of Pennsylvania and PHILADELPHIA GREEN.

4100 Pennsgrove Avenue is a large corner site designed with a special theme in mind. Madelyn Brundage and Rosalie Sims, contact persons for the site, met to discuss their plans with neighbors, Gary Smith-Penns' Landscape Architect, and PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff. Their garden will be shaped like a sundial complete with a sunburst mural.

An apple tree is at the center of the sundial with radiating sections filled with vegetables and flowers. At the front of a gravel walkway, neighbors have planted ornamental grasses in a tree stump too large to remove.

Jean Reed, Jimmy Alston and their neighbors at 4600 Westminster worked with PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff, Ruth Lowe and other Penn Landscape Architecture students to design a space

A sundial in progress at 4100 Pennsgrove Avenue.

filled with their favorite things: a romantic canopy covered with wisteria, a wrought iron gate, stepping stones welcoming visitors to the garden, a small white mailbox encouraging gardeners to leave messages for each other, raised beds with vegetables, and wine barrels with shrubs and perennials. This collection of great garden ideas led Susan Ross, Assistant Coordinator, to call this a "soup to nuts" lotscape.

Abbottsford

PHA - Juanita Wooten, Coordinator

Congratulations! Abbottsford is one of the two Developments chosen by PHA for Tenant Management (to be finalized in September). But Dot Harrell is not waiting until fall to take charge of how her site looks. The beautification at 3205-07 McMichael Street began in 1985. Dot's helping hands have inspired her neighbors throughout Abbottsford, and patches of beauty sprouted everywhere this spring. Now that tenants are doing the management, Dot sees a new enthusiasm and commitment to cleaning and greening up Abbottsford.

ACGA Conference

Asheville, North Carolina with its beautiful Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains in full fall color, will be the site of the 1988 American Community Garden Association (ACGA) Conference.

This year's theme is PLANT A LITTLE MAGIC-CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES IN THE GARDEN. MAGIC (Mountain Area Gardeners in Communities) invites you to join other community gardeners in Asheville, October 16th - 20th.

For more information, call Betty Tyler at (215)625-8280.

I've Got A Question

Q. My brussels sprouts seem to be late, probably because of the drought. Will I get any sprouts at all this year?

A. Pinching off the tip of the plant will stop the plant from growing up and put more of its energy into growing the sprouts.

Q. When should I bring my houseplants back inside for the winter?

A. A good rule of the thumb is to bring them in at least two weeks before you put your heat on.This gives them an adjustment period before the dry, warm environment begins. Since I often repot and carefully clean the plants and check for insects, I bring them in starting September 15th.

Q. I love the impatiens I grew this year. They were bushy, medium height and in beautiful colors. Should I collect the seeds or take cuttings of them?

A. I have found that orange ones will seed themselves. As a general rule, planting impatiens seeds is not very reliable. Instead, take cuttings from the plants now, let them root in water, plant in potting soil and pinch back when about 4 inches tall for nice bushy plants. You will enjoy their bright colors over the winter and have plants for the garden next spring.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to:

Betty Tyler
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

We're looking forward to catching up on your news at the Harvest Show while admiring your beautiful entries and many ribbons.

I especially hope we get a chance to talk there so I can tell you more about my adventures last June when I went to China. The gardens, the people, the cities were all pretty incredible! We visited many parks and botanical institutions along the way and found we had many things in common with our counterparts there. They had lots of questions for us on how we handle drought, poor soil and pest problems.

See you at the Show!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

A SAD NOTE

Grace Hagerty, an avid city gardener and member of PHILADELPHIA GREEN'S Advisory Board, died during the summer. Grace had amassed a vast number of prizes in both the City Gardens Contest and Harvest Show over the years, and was active on both committees. She will be best remembered for her great energy and commitment to working with children.

THANK YOU!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN and all its gardeners are especially grateful to the following corporations and foundations for their support;

ARCO Chemical Company
Atlantic Financial
Bell of Pennsylvania
W. Atlee Burpee Company
Campbell Soup Company
Chevron USA, Inc.
CIGNA Foundation
The Colonial Penn Insurance Companies
Ernst & Whinney
Fidelity Bank
First Pennsylvania Bank
The Garden
General Accident Group
Hunt Manufacturing Company Foundation
IBM Corporation
Johnson & Higgins of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Maritrans Operating Partners L.P.
Mellon Bank (East)
The Mutual Assurance Company
The William Penn Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America
Philadelphia Contributionship
Philadelphia Suburban Corporation
PNB Charitable Trust
Provident National Bank
The Prudential Insurance Company
PSFS
Quaker Chemical Foundation
Rohm and Haas Company
Scott Paper Company
SPS Technologies
Sun Company, Inc.
The Warwick Foundation

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Be a part of the excitement that is generated each September at the Harvest Show. Experience the thrill of winning a ribbon by entering the best of your garden. Celebrate at the Harvest Party with good music, good food and good friends. The Children's Tent will be open during the party, so bring the kids along too.

Feeling timid about entering something from your garden? Overcome your inhibitions and show off your gardening skills.

To enter, fill out and mail the pre-registration card inside the Harvest Show booklet. We'll send you entry tags and information about registration.

Here are some hints to keep in mind .....your blue ribbon vegetables are just waiting to be taken to the show.

Remember to:

- select vegetables of uniform size and good eating quality. The Harvest Show booklet will tell you how many to enter. Always bring extras in case some are damaged in transit. Select ones that have no evidence of disease.

- gather entries carefullly. Be especially gentle with soft skinned vegetables. Wash off loose soil. Some gardeners even wrap them in paper towels while transporting them.

If you grow a number of different varieties of flowers and/or vegetables, consider entering BOUNTY BY THE BASKET or FLORAL BOUNTY. Be sure to bring a list of your specimens on an 8 1 /2" x 11" sheet of paper.

If canning is your speciality, your entries must be heat sealed. Paraffin sealing is acceptable for jellies only. Remember to keep the ring on each jar.

Our younger gardeners can enter a special section made just for them. If you know a youngster who has grown a sunflower, tended vegetables, or planted annuals, encourage them to enter the Show.

CULTIVATING KIDS

It's almost Harvest Show time! One of the youth section classes is "Vinegar". Herb vinegars are easy to make, and are wonderful presents for friends, relatives and teachers. Just think how much the kids could enjoy making holiday presents and winning a blue ribbon -all in September! Here's how to do it:

Add 1/2 cup crushed fresh herb leaves or 1 tablespoon dried leaves to 2 cups of any type of vinegar. Put the mixture in a clear jar, cap it tightly and let stand in a warm spot, out of the sun, for one week.

Strain the vinegar through two layers of cheesecloth into a stainless steel or enamel cooking pot and bring to a boil.

Pour the hot vinegar into sterilized glass bottles, add a fresh sprig of the same kind of herb you used and cap the bottle tightly.

Store in a cool, dark place.

Good combinations to try:
tarragon with white wine vinegar
mint with cider vinegar
sage with red wine vinegar
basil with white wine vinegar

Herb vinegars are great in salad dressings, poured over hot vegetables or mixed with hot water to drink.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

WATERING

This summer was a time of water stress for both plants and gardeners. We wilted and the plants did too. The first problem we noticed was that many plants were stunted and never grew properly. Then we saw lower yields from vegetable gardens.

Because we are still behind in rainfall, watering is even more important than usual, since a successful garden needs at least 1 1/2 inches of water every week. We recommend deep concentrated watering twice a week which soaks down to the roots and prevents the roots from growing close to the soil surface.

Gardeners, here's one way to use water more efficiently. Take the bottom half of a plastic milk jug and with a large nail, make holes in the bottom and sides. Sink it in the ground between plants. If the soil contains enough organic matter the water should spread slowly into the soil.

To measure how much rain has fallen in a week, make marks 1/2 inch apart on the side of a clear glass jar and place it in the garden. At the end of a week you can see if your garden has had enough water or needs extra watering.

Blanche Epps, of West Philadelphia's Garden of Gethsemane put more of her plants in containers this year. This allowed her to concentrate the water where it was most needed and to mulch heavily to keep moisture in the soil.

VIDEOS AVAILABLE

PHILADELPHIA GREEN has VHS gardening videos to loan our gardeners. For more information, call Jeff Myers, 625-8280. Available videos include:

Growing Beautiful Lawns
Easy Outdoor Projects
Get Ready, Get Set, Grow
How to Design and Build a Vegetable Garden
How to Design a Flower Garden
How to Grow and Nurture Seedlings

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No 8. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society October 1988

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Coming Up in Greene Countrie Townes

Mike Groman, Site Development Manager

PHILADELPHIA GREEN will emphasize development of successful veteran gardens. We also plan to integrate more workshops and training programs into our projects. We'll ask that the gardeners attend workshops in order to receive new plants, fencing, soil, and other material.

Susquehanna is the next GCT to be dedicated, and work will be intense in this area over the next 12 months. The Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network has started working on new murals for this area and will continue painting through the fall. The Mt. Kilimanjaro mural at the 20th and Diamond garden has been stopping traffic!

Finally, this year marks the selection of the last Greene Countrie Towne, and several neighborhoods have expressed interest . We will soon make the final selection and begin working with the neighborhood to get underway.

Planting the "Ribbon of Gold"

RIBBON OF GOLD

Barbara Olejnik

Earlier this summer a wildflower seed mix was sprayed onto the bank which faces the railroad tracks at the 18th & Glenwood Garden. The mix contained an assortment of yellow flowering annuals and perennials including Sulfur Cosmos, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, Indian Blanket, Wallflower, and Calendula.

Gardeners, with the help of Philadelphia Green staff, also planted over 400 Black-Eyed Susan seedlings on the top of the bank. While everything looked beautiful at the end of the planting day, the long, hot, dry summer days took their toll on the new plants. Despite the installation of a sprinkler system, many of the Black-Eyed Susans wilted in the intense heat.

Luckily, the recent rains brought with them cooler weather, and things are looking up. Many of the seeds germinated, and most of the Black-Eyed Susans that we thought were "goners" have sprouted back up from the roots. Our challenge now is dealing with the uninvited weeds among the wildflowers. We made an all-out weeding assault on tthe bank to give the flowers a fighting chance. Many of the flowers can now be seen blooming beautiful shades of yellow and orange. Hopefully by next summer the entire bank will dazzle onlookers and train passengers with a "Ribbon of Gold".

I'VE GOT A QUESTION

Q. Is it true that spider plants are easy to grow and good to have in a home or office?

A. Spider plants are probably the most popular houseplant in the United States. They are easy to grow and nice to look at, too. Because of the spider and other plants' ability to take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, they are recommended for office buildings and homes to help purify the air. They have even flown in the space shuttle!

Q. Should I ripen my green tomatoes in the dark or the light?

A. Green tomatoes ripen best in the dark. Wrap them individually in newspaper and put them in a paper bag. Make sure they are stored where the temperature does not get any higher than 50°. Also be sure that you are only using tomatoes without cuts or spots that might ruin the fruit.

Also on the subject of tomatoes--hints for saving seeds. Hybrid varieties should not be used because they don't reproduce true to variety. Squeeze the pulp out of a ripe tomato and let it sit for a few days until a mold appears on top. The seeds will by then have separated from the pulp. Wash the seeds carefully and spread them out to dry for about two weeks. You can then label and store them for the next year.

We invite you to send your gardening questions to :

PG NEWS
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

DEAR FRIENDS:

Congratulations to all the winners in both the City Gardens Contest and the Harvest Show. It's wonderful to know such a dedicated team of gardeners who make our city beautiful and bountiful. You showed great heroism in the face of all the incredible heat and drought. Bravo!

Speaking of drought, we'd like to know what <u>you</u> did to combat the desert-like conditions. Did you design new watering devices, or find a new mulch? Did you discover some especially hardy plants along the way? Write or phone me at the Drought-line, 625-8280. I'd like to hear your garden's story.

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Program Planning Manager

THESE KIDS ARE BEST

The 8 young gardeners at the Garden of Gethsemane have shown themselves to be true winners, with 28 blue ribbons and 19 second-place ribbons at the Delaware County 4 H Fair. They were also Champions and Reserve Champions. Blanche Epps, their 4 H leader, reports that the ribbons were won in crafts, agriculture, horticulture, earth science, and flower arranging.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To help cut down on the number of crack houses in the city, the Managing Director's Office and POWER 99 have established a Crack Hotline. City residents can call 482-7160 any time, 24 hours a day, to report crack houses or drug distribution centers. The reports will be confidential.

SQUASH IT

The Harvest Show always produces wonderful delights for the eyes and award-winning recipes for fall and holiday meals. We thank Rena Ennis of West Philadelphia for this recipe.

Rena's Butternut Squash Pie

3 cups butternut squash, cooked and mashed
4 ounces (1 stick) butter at room temperature
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
2 eggs
2 tablespoons flour
1/4 cup evaporated milk

Combine all ingredients and pour into 9" unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350° 35 minutes or until knife comes out clean.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
OCTOBER 1988

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	Dig up a few strawberry runners from the edge of the bed and plant them in another spot. 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	WORLD FOOD DAY Visit the exhibits at Reading Terminal Market. 12 Noon to 2 PM 14	FAIR IN THE SQUARE Norris Square Neighborhood Project's 15th birthday party. 2141 N. Howard 15
FAIR IN FRANKLIN SQUARE 7th & Race Streets 11 AM to 5 PM 16	Right after 1ST FROST, dig up tuberous begonia, caladium, and other tender bulbs. 17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	HAPPY HALLOWEEN 31					

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT MONTH

This year's Garden Management Workshop, sponsored by Philadelphia Green and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, will offer tips to leaders on how to improve their garden organizations.

To register, fill in the form below and send in by Friday, November 4.

GARDEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Name_____

Address_____

Zip_____

Phone_____

Number of people to attend_____

Return to:
Jeff Myers, PHILADELPHIA GREEN, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

1988 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S

3rd - Little People's Garden
Melinda Johnson and Kids

2nd - ISI Caring Center
Kathy Batchelder and Kids

1st - Junior Garden of
Gethsemane
Tamika Epps and friends

GARDEN BLOCKS

3rd - 1800 Block of Glenifer Street
Karen Jordan/
Marie DeShields
and Neighbors

3700 Block of N 15th Street
Minnie Radcliffe
and Neighbors

2nd - 2100 Block of Wharton Street
Estelle Gelzer
and Neighbors

2100 Block of Stella Street
Karen Utz and Neighbors

2200 N Woodstock Street
Helen Clowney/
Rachel Bagby
and Neighbors

1st - 1600 Block of Patton Street
Essie Duncan
and Neighbors

GREENEST BLOCKS

3rd - 1700 W Edgley Street
Dollie Pinckney
and Neighbors

2630 A thru D Norris
Street
Gertrude Dyer
and Neighbors

2610 A thru E Norris Street
Betty Johnson
and Neighbors

1876 A-F thru 1880 E North
27th Street
Corrine Witcher
and Neighbors

6100 Sansom Street
Clarence Clark
and Neighbors

2nd - 5960-70 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell
and Neighbors

5958-70 Champlost Street
Daisy Hill and Neighbors

5952-72 N 20th Street
Viola Wade and Neighbors

5951-69 Champlost Street
Natalie Richardson and
Neighbors

2021-33 Champlost Street
Andrea Williams and
Neighbors

5987 A thru I North Opal
Street
Eleanora Johnson and
Neighbors

2900 Block of N Felton
Street
Alvena McDaniels and
Neighbors

1st - 6200 Block of Ellsworth
Street
John Steptoe and Neighbors

**COMMUNITY FLOWER/
SITTING GARDEN -SMALL**

3rd - 2915 W Sedgley Street
Dorothy Maddrick and
Neighbors

13 N Conestoga Street
Dora and Berdina Cornish

2nd - 2236 Wilder Street
Shirley Gay & Neighbors

5970 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell
and Neighbors

2nd - 314 Emily Street
Cathy Warnke
and Neighbors

1st - 1700-02 Newkirk Street
Daisy Singletary
and Neighbors

**COMMUNITY FLOWER/
SITTING GARDEN- MID-SIZE**

3rd - 1819-21 Ginnodo Street
Della Dillard and Neighbors

4600 Tackawanna Street
Naomi Heard
and Neighbors

2155-61 E. Stella Street
Karen Utz and Neighbors

2nd - 18th & Reed Streets
Leroy Howell and Neighbors

1101 Marlborough Street
Joyce Windfelder
and Neighbors

1st - 2301 N Woodstock Street
John Chappell
and Neighbors

**COMMUNITY
FLOWER/SITTING GARDEN
LARGE**

3rd - 855-59 N 20th Street
George Sherrill
and Neighbors

3600 N 9th Street
Robert King and Neighbors

2nd - 860 N Uber Street
Mary Smith and Neighbors

856 N Uber Street
Calvin Nelson
and Neighbors

2nd - 44th & Locust Streets
Adam Levine and Neighbors

1st - 3901 N 13th Street
Mary Walke and Neighbors

Stapley-in-Germantown
Mary Calwell and Friends

**COMMUNITY VEGETABLE
GARDENS - SMALL**

3rd - 900 W Boston Street
Bernadette Jones
& Neighbors

2nd - Hansberry Community
Garden
Esther Gardener
& Neighbors

1st - 46th & Linmore Street
Lucille Washington &
Neighbors

**COMMUNITY VEGETABLE -
MID-SIZE**

2nd - 6th & Cambridge Streets
Bob Ingram & Neighbors

1st - 2600 N 6th Street
Adariana La Pinia
& Neighbors

**COMMUNITY VEGETABLE
GARDENS - LARGE**

3rd - 44th and Parrish Streets
Jessie Carter & Neighbors

2nd - Ardleigh and Duvall Streets
Floyd Purnell & Neighbors

Pearl and Conestoga Streets
Blanche Epps & Neighbors

1st - 15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe
& Neighbors

**COMMUNITY COMBINATION
- SMALL**

3rd - Norris and Palethorpe Streets
Reverend Rysard
Hermanowicz & Friends

2nd - 1259 N Mascher Street
Nelida Pena and Neighbors

Dauphin Street Garden
Rachel Bagby
and Neighbors

1st - 46th & Wyalusing Avenue
Elnora Jones, Clifton Holt
and Neighbors

**COMMUNITY COMBINATION -
MID-SIZE**

3rd - 41st and Parkside Avenue
Mary Alfama and Neighbors

355 N 61st Street
Lillie Singleton
and Neighbors

2nd - 4713-15 Chester Avenue
Danielle Rousseau and
Neighbors

1500 Grays Ferry Avenue
Mattie Robbins
and Neighbors

1st - 911 N American Street
Diane Brumble
and Neighbors

**COMMUNITY COMBINATION
- LARGE**

3rd - Garden of Eatin'
Alta Felton and Neighbors

2nd - 18th & Glenwood Avenue
James Taylor
and Neighbors

1st - Aspen Farms
Charles Clark
and Neighbors

ON THE VINE

Gardeners will be

"LOOKING GREAT IN 88"

at the
Community Recognition Dinner
Friday, November 18th
Sheraton - Society Hill

Join us for cocktails at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM.
Recreation Commissioner DOLORES M. ANDY will be our guest speaker.
And the BENNY FIELDS BAND will be back again
to help guests dance the night away.
Ticket price is $18.50. Look for your invitation in the mail.

CULTIVATING KIDS

Yellow, brown, red. When leaves turn colors and start to fall, children are fascinated and want to know "Why?"

This two-fold process takes place so the trees can survive the difficult winter. The broad leaves are very important for catching the sunlight which helps the tree change water and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen. When the ground is frozen in winter, less water is available to the trees. If the leaves stayed on the trees, too much water would be lost through evaporation from the leaves, and the trees would die. Trees lose their leaves and shut down over the winter (go dormant) for survival.

The yellow and orange colors in the leaves have been there all year, but were masked by the green chlorophyll (the food-producing material in the leaves). Now that less chlorophyll is being made, these other colors show clearly. And cooler temperatures slow down the removal of sugar from the leaves, producing the reddish colors that we see. After this, leaf buds for next year start forming inside the bottom of the leaf stalk, causing the old leaves to fall off.

But don't worry--before you know it, spring will be here and the new leaves will again clothe the trees.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

SOIL PREPARATION

If you take the time to work on your soil in October or November, you can expect a better garden next year. This is true whether you are just starting a garden or you have been gardening for many years.
After cleaning out all the plant remnants, spade the soil and add manure or compost. Next, plant a winter cover crop such as annual rye. Cover crops will add nitrogen when they're turned into the soil next spring.

October is also a good time to start a compost pile. The plant remnants you are pulling out now can be added to the pile so you will have a good supply of organic material for your garden next spring.

SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

Plant bulbs of spring-flowering plants in October, to give them time to grow roots before the ground freezes solid. Mix in plenty of bone meal and organic matter, (one cup of bone meal and a bucket of compost for each dozen bulbs) since they'll be in the same spot for many years. As a general rule, plant the bulbs three times as deep as they are wide.

Don't forget to dig up dahlias, cannas and caladium once they have been nipped by frost. These usually won't come back in the spring, so they need to be stored for the winter in a cool place without freezing, such as an unheated basement.

1989 NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION GRANTS

The National Gardening Association (NGA) is again sponsoring a garden grant program for those gardens or teachers who work with children. Winners will receive a $600 materials package consisting of seeds, tools, books, and more.

Philadelphia Green gardeners and teachers have received grants in past years, and we encourage you to send for an application now. The deadline is November 15, 1988. To receive an application, write:

National Gardening Grants
180 Flynn Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No. 9. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society November 1988

1259 Mascher Street - Three Generations of Gardeners

Nelida Pena's dream had always been to clean up the trash dump on the corner of her street. Besides being an eyesore, the piles of trash were a danger to the many children in the neighborhood.

In 1987, Nellie and her mother, with some neighborhood help, cleared a small portion of the lot and planted vegetables. This spring, PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff Barbara Wagner, then Winfred Young and Verlene Johnson worked with the group to do a design for the whole lot.

The lot had two unique features that had to be worked around -- a steep slope on a third of the lot, and a large cement slab left from an old store front. Instead of considering these to be problems, the group worked both of them into the design. The cement slab became the base for a sitting area with benches and a crabapple tree for shade. The slope was covered with compost and soil, and eggplants, beans and carrots were planted to hold back the slope.

The garden was designed to make many different people happy--beauty for the neighbors to look at, a sitting area for the seniors, and a play area for the kids. A gravel path winds through each section of the garden, and tree stumps full of geraniums decorate the different sections.

According to PG staff member Winfred Young, "the neighbors were an enthusiastic, hardworking group. They knew what they wanted and where they wanted it. Eight kids were actively involved, including Nellie's daughter, which made it three generations of her family in the garden. There was plenty of cooperation and creativity, despite problems like locked fire hydrants and falling houses."

This year, even though it competed against many older and more established gardens, 1259 Mascher Street won second prize in the City Gardens' Contest in the Community Small Combination Gardens catagory, and we expect to see them in the winners' circle again next year.

Community members welcome us to a joint project of PHILADELPHIA GREEN and Anti-Graffiti

Anti Graffiti Garden in Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne

A two-house lot on the corner of Van Pelt and Susquehanna was chosen as a demonstration site this year for training members of the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network (PAGN). Twelve young adults, under the leadership of Gary Harris, learned Basic Landscaping from Hal Rosner, a former Philadelphia Green staff member.

This summer, PAGN teams worked on two different projects. The first team installed cyclone fences around vacant lots. The second team installed gardens. The group at 2200-2202 Van Pelt Street,

(continued page 2)

ANTI -GRAFFITI

(Continued from first page)

headed by Nicki Payne, was able to take advantage of both programs, since the lot was used as a training site.

PAGN participants were trained in lot cleanup, soil preparation, raised bed construction, bench installation, and shrub planting. Those trained then went on to be supervisors of their own teams, planting more gardens around the city.

According to Gina Burnette, one of the PAGN supervisors trained during this project, "It was really incredible to experience the transformation of an abandoned lot into a beautifully designed and executed park. Every member of the work crew provided input into the creation. The community was very supportive, and kept us well fed, and by the end of the week we were really a part of the community. We didn't want to leave!"

DEDICATION

The children of the Garden of Gethsemane at Pearl & Conestoga were the winners of the Bronze Medal for Horticultural Excellence for their Bounty by the Wheel-barrow at the annual Harvest Show. They asked to dedicate this medal in honor of Grace Hagerty, who worked so hard to promote childrens' gardening in the city. Grace passed away this summer.

DEAR FRIENDS

It's fall, sometimes a mixed blessing. While there's less work out in the garden, with the promise of winter's rest, it's still hard to see the season end. That's why we need one more time to celebrate at the Community Recogniton Dinner, November 18th. We can remember the great things that happened this year and dream about all that we're ready to try new next spring.

See you on the 18th,

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Program Planning Manager

CHINA TRIP

After a 2 1/2 week trip to China, Patricia Schrieber will be sharing "A Garden Lover's View of China" with PHS members and friends. Wed., January 11, 5:45 PM at PHS, 325 Walnut Street. $8.00 for non-members, $6.00 for members. Contact Betsy Gullan, 625-8257.

AROUND TOWN

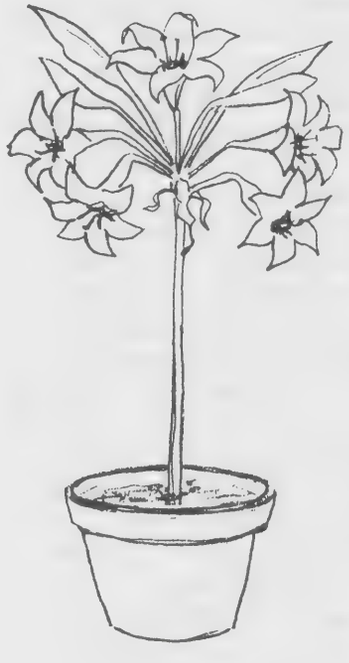
The Penn State Extension Service publishes a newsletter six times a year that features nutrition, gardening and lawn care. If you'd like to have Around Town mailed to your home, call 560-4152 from 10 AM to 2 PM any weekday.

SAVE THAT TREE!!

The William Penn Brigade is being formed to do just that, to keep healthy big old trees from being cut down in the city. For as long as you keep them fed, John Dowlin and his son Timothy have volunteered to camp out in any threatened trees. Call and leave a message at 222-1253.

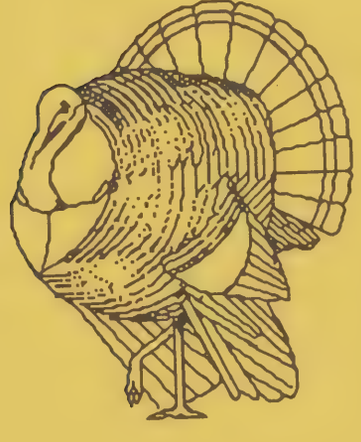
RESOURCES

The American Community Gardening Association has published a special issue of their Journal on Garden Resources. This booklet lists books, videos, magazines, organizations, etc. recommended by community garden experts around the nation. We have a limited number of copies. If you would like one, call Cindy at 625-8280.



PHILADELPHIA GREEN November 1988

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	Time to start putting your garden to bed. 5
6	7	Election Day 8	New Moon 9	10	Veterans Day 11	GARDEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP 12
13	14	15	16	17	COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER 18	19
20	21	22	Full Moon 23	TURKEY DAY! 24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Philadelphia Green

Holiday Field Trip

TO:	Cape May, New Jersey for "A Christmas Candlelight House Tour"
	Visit more than a dozen homes, guest homes, hotels & churches decorated for this most festive time of the year. Cape May's Gingerbread House Contest is a particularly popular feature of the Tour. Heated trolley-buses transport tourgoers from one site to the next on a continuous loop.
	and
	a surprise visit to a horticultural attraction
DATE:	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1988
COST:	$10.00 PER PERSON
TIME:	LEAVE AT 2:00 PM AND RETURN BY 11:00 PM
LEAVE FROM:	PHS - 325 WALNUT STREET
DINNER:	Brown Bag it!

---------- tear here ----------

Please reserve_____ seat(s) at **$10.00 each**

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

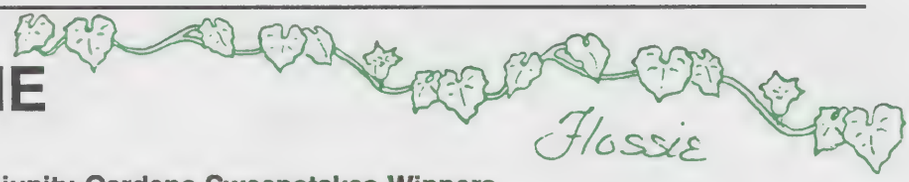
PHONE NUMBER_____AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_____

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 14, 1988

Make check or money order payable to PHS and Return to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

ON THE VINE



1988 Harvest Show Commiunity Gardens Sweepstakes Winners

SMALL GARDENS

1st 1712-14 N 18th St.
Estella Williams
61 points

2nd 24th & Snyder
Vare Middle School
Larry Stier
23 points

5404 Gibson Drive
Bartram Village
Carol Simons & Greg Tribuiani
23 points

3rd 51st & Pine
Black Oak Park
Rena Ennis
20 points

HM 39th & Folsom
Louise Mathis
18 points

MEDIUM GARDENS

1st 4200 Sansom
Brickyard Farm
Frank Kieser
84 points

2nd 916-922 N. Leithgow
Seedy Acres
Angela Kalmus & Dick Caswell
70 points

3rd 44th & Parrish
Jessie Carter
51 points

HM 46th & Wyalusing
Elnora Jones
28 points

HM Wayne & Hansberry
Esther Gardner
16 points

LARGE GARDENS

1st Pearl & Conestoga
Garden of Gethsemane
Blanche Epps
172 points

2nd 49th & Aspen
Aspen Farms
Hayward Ford
87 points

3rd 3rd & Christian
Southwark/Queen Village
Helen Walczak
74 points

HM 25th & Dickinson
Garden of Eatin'
Alta Felton
71 points

HM 2600 N. 6th
Fairhill Community Garden
Adariano Lapinia
65 points

CULTIVATING KIDS

FORCING BULBS FOR WINTER BEAUTY
The Amaryllis is probably the most spectacular houseplant around (it often gets 2-3 feet tall) , and is very easy to start and take care of.
Here's what you need:

an Amaryllis bulb (the bigger the better)
a pot -- 2 inches wider than the bulb, and as deep as it is wide
gravel or small pebbles
potting soil

To get flowers by Christmastime, you **must** begin in November. Line the bottom of the pot with about 1/2 inch of gravel or pebbles. Then add about an inch of soil. The bulb will come with some roots already growing on the bottom, so you need to work more soil in around the roots, firming the soil as you go along. The finished product should have the bulb planted 2/3 of the way out of the soil.

Now soak the soil thoroughly and let it drain. This will settle the soil, and is all the water it needs until the plant starts to grow.

Once the plant starts to grow out the top of the bulb, move the pot to a place where it'll have at least 4 hours of sunlight each day. It likes night temperatures of at least 60° at night and 70 ° in the day. Once the plant flowers, take it out of the sun to make the flowers last longer, up to three weeks.

After you've enjoyed the flowers and they're done blooming, put the pot back in the sun so the leaves can make food for next year. Pots can go outside in the summer, as long as you water regularly and fertilize with liquid plant food monthly. Stop feeding and trim back the leaves next November, replace the old soil with new, and keep the bulbs going for many years!

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Putting the Garden to Bed

Fall is a time to look back over the accomplishments of the year in the garden. Many of us also take this time to remember the things we wish we could have done but didn't have time for. Let's take advantage of the fall to resolve to do things a little differently next year, by starting earlier-- 5 or 6 months earlier!

GET THE JUMP ON SPRING
Lots of flowers can be planted in the fall, especially anything that reseeds, like cleome, marigolds, 4 o'clocks, and snow-on-the-mountain. Plant in a cold frame or protected spot now, and transplant out into the garden in the spring. Or sow the seeds directly in the bed where they'll grow in the spring, after you've prepared the soil.

Get the garden cleaned up **now!!!** There are too many other things to do in March and April to wait til then. Turn over the soil as soon as flowers and veggies are done. Doing it now means no waiting for the ground to dry out in the spring.

Pull out old dead plants and either compost them or throw them out with the trash. Dead plants are a great place for bugs and diseases to spend their winter vacations.

Add organic matter like manure or compost to the soil before the ground freezes. This is also a good time to take a soil test and add lime if needed. Manure, compost and lime will have the whole winter to break down and be absorbed into the soil.

Mulching bulbs is a very good fall practice for lots of reasons. Most important is that it keeps the soil from freezing and thawing over and over in the winter, which causes bulbs to heave up out of the ground. Also, slow-growing shallow-rooted ground covers like ajuga can be planted around bulbs as a living mulch.

Rake leaves and save them for compost. Mow lawn at about 1 1/2 inches high and remove the clippings for compost too. This will keep the lawn from matting and keep mold from forming.

Once you have completed all of these tasks, sit back and reflect on a job well done. You deserve a rest, and soon enough snow will cover up the things you forgot to finish.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Sally McCabe
Graphics: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.10, No 10. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Dec 1988/Jan 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Strawberry Mansion- Our Newest GCT

by Olivia Lehman

The greening of Strawberry Mansion continues, the result of the dedication of many gardeners over the years. So it's no surprise that Strawberry Mansion is our newest Greene Countrie Towne.

The award-winning Patton Street Garden Block, the Dotson's luscious (and award-winning) flower garden on Turner Street, and the Maddrick /Coleman award-winner on Sedgley and Hollywood are three examples of the spectacular gardening already underway in Strawberry Mansion.

Four of last year's lotscapes are developing nicely. The "park" at 2100 N. Marston St., once an unofficial parking lot, now boasts raised beds, paths, and a chain-link fence installed by the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network. Thanks to Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Williams and the kids!

At the corner of 29th & Gordon Street you can't miss the rose-filled wishing well installed on a cool day in spring. Many Residents helped plant annuals in a heart-shaped bed, as well as begonias and euonymous in wine barrels. Mrs. Parker's devotion to the garden's upkeep really shows.

The Dotson's prize-winning garden on Turner Street in Strawberry Mansion

2100 N. Newkirk is another memorable block with white picket fences, arbors, and wide brick paths. Leroy Cooper and John Hearst were the craftsmen in the garden, while Loddie Glover took responsibility for the overall picture from the start.

Did you know there's a Pied Piper on Westmont St.? Larry Grant has led many of the under-twelve crowd into the garden and put hammers, nails, and wooden posts into their hands. Larry's foreman couldn't be older than eight. Together, Larry and the kids have constructed a strong, attractive fence. They're looking forward to shrubs, trees and groundcovers very soon.

Plans for fall include four new lotscape sites on Corlies, Stanley, Arizona, and Euclid Streets.

Mini Harvest Party

More than 70 children came out for a neighborhood Harvest Party at 22nd & Dauphin in early October. The garden there, coordinated by Madeline Phillips and Hilda Armstrong, has a corps of 12 4-H kids who grow vegetables and flowers.

Events for the day included bobbing for apples, painting pumpkins, and painting each others' faces. Planting bulbs and a peach tree was also part of the fun, especially when everybody who found a worm was rewarded with an extra hotdog!

This special event was sponsored by PHILADELPHIA GREEN, Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, and 4-H. The peach tree was donated by the children of the Garden of Gethsemane.

Dear Friends:

Winter seems to be on its way. Though some say it's time for hibernating, with all the visions of sugar plums and seed catalogs dancing in your heads, you may just keep moving right through til spring. Check for ideas in this newsletter to keep your green thumbs in good condition over the winter months.

And be sure to have a great holiday season!

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Program Planning Manager

Seed Catalogs

Looking for good wintertime reading material with lots of luscious pictures? Just when you thought it was safe to take a rest, it's time to start planning next year's garden.

Many seed and plant mail order catalogs are available for just the cost of sending a postcard. Find out what varieties are new to the garden plant world, as well as which of the old standby's have stood by the test of time. There's also lots of information in them about planning, planting, and caring for your garden.

To make life easy for us, Penn State's Urban Gardening Program has put together a **List of Mail Order Seed Houses**, which they will be glad to send you free of charge. Give them a call at the **GARDENPHONE**, 560-4167.

Cultural Exchange

How different from other countries is life in Philadelphia? 12 students from the University of Pennsylvania's Landscape Architecture Program got a taste of Philly when they took part in a "SLEEPOVER" on Harvest Show weekend.

The students, who are from such far-away places as China, Thailand, the Philippines, Spain, the Midwest, and upstate New York, come from a Landscape Design class at Penn. As part of their coursework, they will be working with the community to draw up designs for the **Aspen Farms** garden, and for a Green Corridor that includes the garden at **4641 Westminster**, (planted last spring), the new garden at 4629 Westminster, and the immediate blocks of Markoe and Westminster. The projects will then be implemented as part of the West Philadelphia Greening Project.

Gardeners from **Aspen Farms**, including **Jessie Evans, Mrs. Drayton, Esther Williams**, and **Charles Clarke**, along with **Blanche Epps, Rena Ennis**, and **Dorothy Nero**, opened their homes and their families over the weekend so that the students could experience life in a West Philadelphia neighborhood. This cultural exchange was suggested so that the designers could get a better understanding of the part that gardening plays in the community.

Hayward Ford from **Aspen Farms**, one of the garden leaders who took part in the weekend, was able to talk with the student from Thailand in her native language -- he had spent time there during his military career, and still remembered enough of the language to get by. Another gardener didn't want the weekend to end--she hadn't had anyone stay over and cook her breakfast and do her dishes in years!

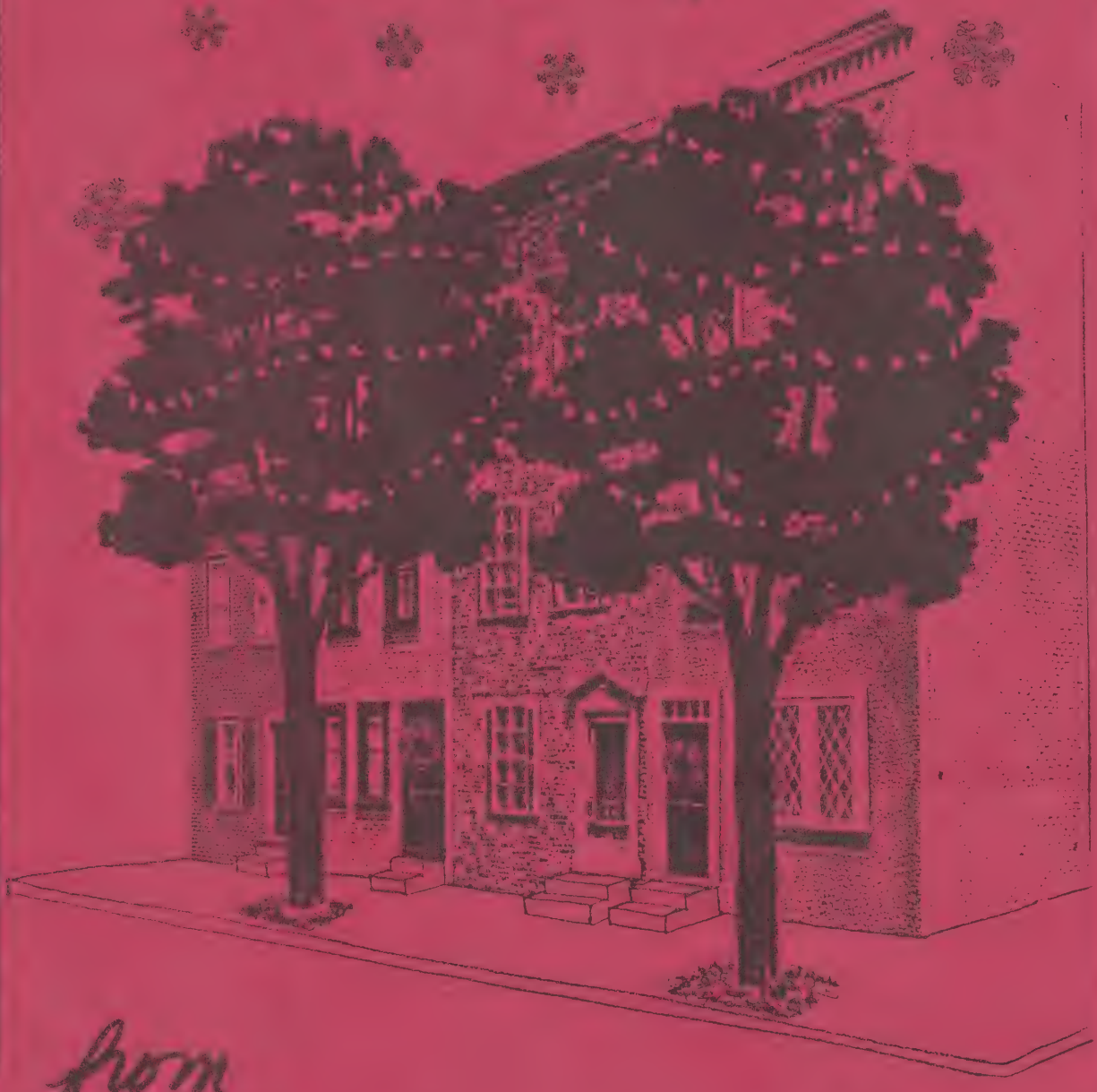
Winter Workshop Series

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program will be holding a series of workshops for the public this winter. Classes will be held at their new home at 46th & Market Streets on six consecutive Saturdays from 9 - 11 AM.

Workshops this year will focus on the edible landscape. Topics will include Container Gardening, Herbs in the Landscape, Controlling Pests the Natural Way, Garden Folklore and Myths, Living with the Changing Environment, and Preserving Your Garden Bounty.

For more information about the workshops, or about Food Gardening in general, call the **GARDENPHONE**, 560-4167 any weekday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Happy Holidays!



from PHILADELPHIA GREEN

PHILADELPHIA GREEN DECEMBER 1988

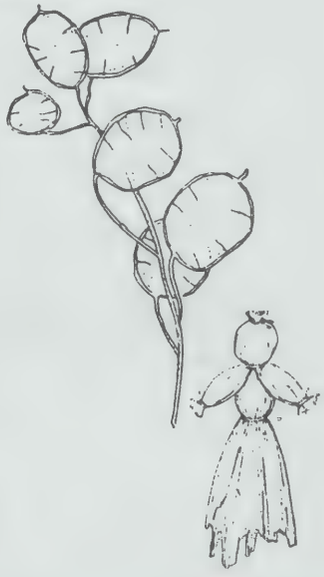
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	HANUKKAH begins at sunset 3
4	5	6	7	GERMANTOWN CANDLELIGHT TOUR 10 - 4 Call 848-3680 8	GERMANTOWN CANDLELIGHT TOUR 10 - 4 9	GERMANTOWN CANDLELIGHT TOUR 10 - 4 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	First day of WINTER 21	22	OFFICE CLOSED 23	24
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! 25	KWANZAA begins (seven days) OFFICE CLOSED 26	27	28	OFFICE CLOSED 29	Cape May Trip OFFICE CLOSED 30	31

JANUARY 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! OFFICE CLOSED 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. DAY 16	17	18	19	20	First WINTER WORKSHOP at Penn State CONTAINER GARDENING 21
22	23	24	25	26	27	WINTER WORKSHOP HERBS IN THE LANDSCAPE 28
29	30	31				

CULTIVATING KIDS

MAKING HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS



Nature offers plenty of free material to use in making holiday decorations. Leaves, dried weeds, pine cones, and evergreen branches are everywhere if you know to look for them. Dried gourds, dried beans, and branches of herbs that were brought in from the garden after cleanup can also be used.

All you need is a little imagination, and kids certainly have enough of that! Add a few things like cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, ribbon and paper clips to nature's bounty, and put your youngsters to work.

Cartoon characters are an easy place to start. Cut out the shapes from paper or cardboard and glue on beans and seeds for decoration. Then move on to imaginary beasts with pinecone bodies, walnut heads, and beans for eyes.

Use pieces of ribbon to attach paper clip hangers. Hang your creations on the tree, on doors, or on windows.

Brighten up your house with them throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

ON THE VINE

Flossie

Don't miss your LAST CHANCE to take **"A CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR"** in Victorian Cape May. Visit more than a dozen homes, guest homes, hotels & churches decorated for this most festive time of the year. Heated trolley buses transport tourgoers from one site to the next on a continuous loop.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30.
LEAVE 325 WALNUT ST. AT 2:00 PM AND RETURN BY 11:00 PM.

Please reserve_____ seat(s) at **$10.00 each**

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE NUMBER_____**AMOUNT ENCLOSED $**_____

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 14, 1988

Make check or money order payable to PHS and Return to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Xmas Trees

With that time of year almost here, many people will soon be buying Xmas trees. But how do you know if you're getting a good one? Here are a few easy rules to follow:

1) Grab hold of some of the needles and pull hard. If they stay on the branch, chances are good that the tree is fresh.

2) Try the "bounce" test. Take the tree by the trunk and bounce the base of the tree once on the ground--is the ground covered with needles? If it is, this isn't the tree for you.

Once you've picked the perfect tree for your family, here's how to keep it that way:

1) Keep it as cool as possible until you get it in the house, preferably outside.

2) As soon as you get it in the house, make sure it's always in a couple of inches of water. Cut an inch off the base of the trunk so that a fresh section of stem is sitting in the water.

3) A simple formula for keeping the tree fresh can be made from household items: add 1/4 cup Clorox, a tablespoon of liquid plant fertilizer, and 1/2 cup corn syrup (Karo) to a gallon of warm water. Use this to water the tree as the level in the dish or tree stand drops. The corn syrup and fertilizer feed the tree, and the Clorox keeps bacteria or germs from growing in the water.

4) Don't keep the tree in the house for more than ten days. After that, they dry out no matter what you feed them, and can become a fire hazard.

After the holidays are over, save your tree for use in the garden. Needles make a great mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons. Save the branches to protect early spring crops from hungry birds. If you know someone with a chipper, the whole thing could be turned into woodchips to mulch the garden. The City Streets Department usually has a special collection around the holidays specifically for Xmas trees, which are then chipped at the Recycling Center.

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Sally McCabe
Graphics: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.11, No. 1. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society February 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBOR-HOODS

NORTHERN LIBERTIES PLANTS TREES

With help from Philadelphia Green and the Neighborhood Beautification Committee, residents of the Northern Liberties planted 35 street trees this fall.

The Committee, headed by **Steve Malarskey** of the **900 block of North 5th Street**, solicited applications, arranged for Fairmount Park inspection and permits, and raised funds for the project. They then hired a crew to cut sidewalks, remove the cement and move the heavy trees. Participants dug their own 3'x3'x3' pits, backfilled with soil after planting, mulched with woodchips, and staked and wired their trees.

The trees were donated by Philadelphia Green. Bulbs planted in the pits came from Burpee Seeds. Lunch for the workers was provided by the Ortleibs Jazzhaus.

Spring plans will include a contest for the Best Tree Pit, including prizes for Most Creative, Strongest, and most Artistic. Stay tuned for details!

40th ST. TROLLEY STOP

People riding SEPTA trolleys out of the 40th St. tunnel (40th & Baltimore) this spring will be pleasantly surprised to see hundreds of tulips, daffodils and crocuses blooming along the west wall there. Project Chair **Joe Moloznik** is eagerly awaiting the first crocus to pop its head out of the soil at winter's end.

The 40th Street beautification is a special focus of the West Philadelphia Greening and Landscape Project. Participants in the planting day put in more than a thousand bulbs, which were donated by Philadelphia Green and Burpee Seeds. The work was done as part of an ongoing program of beautification and greening in the Spruce Hill/ University City area.

Residents of the area also planted thousands of bulbs around the neighborhood, in an effort to beautify the visible face of the community. This includes front yards as well as public spaces. They expect to continue the projects next spring with planting of annuals, perennials, and more bulbs.

PG VISITS CAPE MAY

Advisory Board members and friends of Philadelphia Green took a bus trip to Cape May for a Candlelight Tour of the Victorian Houses of Cape May. The tour , held December 30, is an annual event showing the guest houses, Bed & Breakfast Inns, and churches as they would have looked for Xmas during Victorian times--1876 to about 1900.

The busfull from Philadelphia had a wonderful time in spite of the bitter cold weather, which prompted someone to comment-- "The next time we take a winter holiday trip to Cape May, let's do it in July!"

Philadelphia Green Gardeners were "Looking Great in '88" at the ***Community Recognition Dinner.*** *For more details, look inside.*

DEAR FRIENDS:

With each passing day, as the sun gets brighter and shines longer, gardeners everywhere are ordering seeds, tending new sprouts, cleaning tools and looking forward to the beginning of spring.

Speaking of spring, please join us at the Philadelphia Flower Show, March 5 through 12. Our Exhibit Committee, headed by Anne Vallery and Rena Ennis, will present "Shades of Philadelphia Green," which will highlight one of our most valuable natural resources in the city—STREET TREES.

See you there.

Patricia

Patricia Schrieber
Program Planning Manager

FLOWER SHOW DATES AND INFO

Put these dates on your calendar right away! The Philadelphia Flower Show will be held at the Civic Center fromSunday, March 5 through Sunday, March 12. Tickets at the door are $9 for adults, $4.50 for children under 12. Advance Sale Tickets are $8.25 for adults, $4.50 for children. For information about ordering your tickets, call 625-8280. Deadline for ordering is February 24, 1989.

WINTER SHRUB CARE

Give your shrubs and trees a helping hand through the winter. Water them well each time there's a thaw. Research shows that they survive winter's cold , drying winds better if given more moisture at their roots. Winter-kill is caused more by lack of moisture in the plants than by freezing temperatures.

STARTING SEEDS INDOORS

February crops to start indoors:

Feb 1-15

onions
leeks
cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, collards)
celery

Feb 15-28

all the annuals (including marigold, petunia, and zinnia)
head lettuce
chives
chinese cabbage

HINTS FOR ORDERING SEEDS & PLANTS FROM A CATALOG

SHOP AROUND. Not all catalogs are equal. Compare prices in different catalogs. Some catalogs may have lower prices for some items but higher prices for others. Shop around.

ORDER WITH A FRIEND. Small gardens might not have enough room for a full pack of seeds of each variety. Why not share an order? Bulk orders are usually cheaper, and doing a group order means you can get more different kinds for the same amount of money per person.

NEVER READ A CATALOG ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. The hungrier you are when you see those luscious tomatoes, the more money you're liable to spend!

SAVE YOUR EMPTY SEED PACKETS. These will come in handy next year when you're trying to remember which bean it was that did so well. And remembering the variety names will also be worth extra points when you enter your bounty in the Harvest Show in September.

For more information on SEED CATALOGS, see Digging Out The Facts, *on the back page of this issue.*

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER
Looking Great in '88

CHAMPLOST HOMES GARDENERS, winners of the 1988

GREEN THUMB OF THE YEAR award

Olivia Blackwell
Marie Brooks
Sharon Daniels
Vernetta Drummond
Tim Hannibal
Daisy May Hill
Mays Janell
Elenora Johnson
Noel Miller
Joyce Richardson
Natalie Richardson
Brenda Rodyers
Valerie Sloane
Viola Wade
Andrea Williams

PHILADELPHIA GREEN - FEBRUARY 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	Groundhog Day 2	3	Penn State Workshop CONTROLLING GARDEN PESTS NATURALLY Jeff Ball 10-12 noon 4601 Market St. 4
5	New Moon 6	7	Ash Wednesday 8	9	10	Penn State Workshop GARDEN FOLKLORE & MYTH Jerry McGregory, Phila Folklore Society 11
1st Quarter Moon 12	13	14	15	16	17	Penn State Workshop LIVING WITH THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT 18
19	Presidents' Day Full Moon 20	21	22	23	24	Penn State Workshop PRESERVING YOUR BOUNTY 25
26	27	Last Quarter Moon 28				

CULTIVATING KIDS

Here's an activity to keep kids out of trouble during those dark dreary days just before spring breaks through.

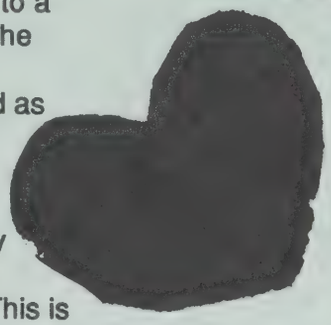
POTATO PRINT VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

Kid's love to exchange Valentine's Day cards with their friends in school. Give them a chance to create their own designer models.

Spread newspaper on the work surface. This way when they finish they can roll up the evidence and throw it away. Make one youself as an example, and give it to that special someone. If you haven't got a special someone, send it here to Philadelphia Green.

First cut a potato in half; be careful to make a straight and level cut. Now decide what design you want to make, and draw it on the cut surface. Keep it simple, since you'll need to carve away everything except the design, and that can be tricky. Heart shapes are easy; cupids are more difficult.

Press the design into some poster paint. Make sure to cover the whole design with paint, without, of course, covering your fingers. Now press the potato onto a folded piece of paper. The final product can be as simple or as complicated as you want it to be.



Another winter activity takes advantage of low humidity in the house. This is what drives your sinuses wild in January and February, and is caused by running the heater, especially forced-air heat. Make DRIED APPLES, also known as APPLE SCHNITZ by the Pennsylvania Dutch.

Peel the apples, core them, and slice them very thin. Get a clean string, shoelace, piece of yarn, or thread, and string together the apple pieces. Hang apple "necklace" in a dry, warm place until they have dried out

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

HOW TO READ AND USE A CATALOG

Last issue we talked briefly about seed catalogs. Those of you who called Penn State's Gardenphone for the list and sent away your post cards have probably already started getting these beautiful catalogs in the mail. If you didn't, there's still time—but you'd better hurry. Don't wait another minute for those rich red tomatoes, sweet sugar-snap peas, and luscious pink watermelons.

But how do you decide which variety is absolutely right for your garden? Each catalog is slightly different from the next, but all contain pretty much the same basic information. Some are glossy, and others are full of mouth-watering advertisements. Wade through all of that until you reach the alphabetical listings.

Decisions are easier to make if you understand what to look for in catalogs. First place to start is the **NAME** of the variety. CLIMBING TRIP-L CROP tomato will usually be a pole tomato that bears plenty of fruit. The word "tiny", "midget," "miniature" or "dwarf" indicate a space-saver type of plant.

HYBRID or **OPEN-POLLINATED**? Open-pollinated varieties are produced by the crossing of two similar parents. Seeds can be saved from these and will breed true. They are usually cheaper to buy. Hybrids are crosses between two or more different individual plants to get a particular result, like vigor, size, or disease resistance. Since these crosses are more difficult to make, and are often done by hand, these seeds are much more expensive to buy. Saving their seeds is usually not worth doing.

NEW VARIETIES Try something new this year. But make sure you also plant some of your old favorites too, since you already know how well they do in your garden.

DISEASE RESISTANCE Many of your favorite vegetables and flowers have been improved to withstand common diseases. Read the descriptions to find out which varieties have resistance. For example, a tomato with the letters VFFNTA after the name is resistant to verticillium wilt, two types of fusarium wilt, root nematodes, tobacco mosaic virus, and anthracnose.

SPACE Again, read the descriptions. If a plant is going to be four feet high at maturity, you won't want to order those seeds for your windowbox.

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Sally McCabe
Graphics: Anne Vallery

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.11, No. 2. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society March 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Norris Square

The transformation of Norris Square to a green community has been an ongoing concern at the Norris Square Neighborhood Project. This past fall, Philadelphia Green decided to lend a helping hand in the community, and Norris Square formed a Greening Committee. Chairperson Iris Brown is coordinating the upcoming Garden Block program. With assistance from **Sister Carol, Tomasita Romero** and **Thelma Chambers**, interested blocks are signing up for the spring. Blocks will receive wine barrels, windowboxes and flowers or shrubs to beautify the streets.

Thelma Chambers and her block have been waiting for street trees for years. Wishes sometimes do come true! Fairmount Park has recently planted new street trees on the **2100 block of N. 2nd St.**- And have you noticed any changes in the park? The old tree stumps are gone. Spring and summer should bring more new trees and park beautification. -

When warm weather arrives, we'll be looking forward to working with the residents there. With our combined efforts, Norris Square will become the newest Greene Countrie Towne.

Tropical rainforests come to the city as the Philadelphia Flower Show opens March 5.

FLOWER SHOW SPEAKERS' SERIES

Almost all of us have been to the Flower Show, and walked our feet to the bone in the process. Well, here's a chance to sit down and rest those weary dogs, and learn a little horticulture at the same time!

Learn basic flower arranging from Allied Florists, or exotic Oriental arranging from members of the Ikebana Schools. Or see demonstrations on Making Succulent Wreaths, Making Soap and Cosmetics from Herbs, or Bringing Water Gardening Indoors.

Workshops and Demonstrations are held daily at 11AM, 12:30, 2, 3:30, and 5 PM most days, with slightly different times on Sundays. For a complete list, call the Penna. Horticultural Society, 625-8250.

BULBS GALORE

Bulbs are blooming like crazy out there! If you'd like them to continue to do this every year, here are a few reminders:

The leaves are making food to feed next year's flowers. Don't cut them off, tie them up, or otherwise disturb them.

Feel free to cut the flowers. It's better to cut them for bouquets than to pick them, since sometimes people yank a little harder than they meant to, and pull the bulbs up out of the ground.

Enjoy the fruits of your labors--a little work in the fall made a lot of beauty this spring!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The **Garden of Gethsemene** at Pearl & Conestoga is sponsoring a workshop on CONTAINER GARDENING. Save space on your calendar on Friday, March 31, from 11 AM to 1 PM. Blanche Epps and gardeners welcome you to bring a brown bag lunch and tour the garden afterward. RSVP to Blanche at 727-8903 by Monday, March 27.

The **Garden of Eatin'** will be the site for a workshop on PRUNING FRUIT TREES & BUSHES on Saturday, March 4 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Harold Taylor from Longwood Gardens will be on hand to demonstrate techniques and answer questions. To pre-register for the event, call Eileen Gray at 625-8280 by Tuesday, February 28.

CAUTION: The Tree Surgeon General warns that leaving wires on a newly planted tree for longer than a one-year period may result in undue injury or even death.

A pitiful sight in the urban forest is a street tree girdling itself. Rubber hose and wire that's used to guy and support trees during the year after they're first planted is usually the culprit. Newly planted trees grow vigorously, which means their trunks are going to expand and get fatter.

Tree stakes and guy wires play an important role in the transplanting process, because they allow a tree to re-establish a root system. Without them, winds and kids would constantly be jostling the ball of soil, hampering root growth.

Sometimes tree stewards elect to keep the wire and stake system in the ground for an extra year or two. In such a case, they must regularly check to see that the wire is not too snug on the trunk.

FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

Handouts and flyers are available on the following topics:

PRUNING FRUIT TREES

PRUNING RASPBERRIES

STARTING SEEDS INDOORS

SENDING FOR FREE SEEDS

SPRING SOIL PREPARATION

Call Sally McCabe or Jeff Myers at 625-8280 to ask for your free copies.

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program also has a good supply of educational handouts about spring vegetable planting. For a list of what's available, or to get on their mailing list, call the GARDENPHONE at 560-4167

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Check around the house for any gift certificates you might have been given last year. Many people won them in the City Gardens Contest, or were awarded them for attending workshops. Cash them in now (before they expire) by sending in your orders to Burpee, Park or other seed companies.

ON THE VINE

Get Growing for the 1989 Harvest Show Challenge Class -

What is a Challenge Class?

All contestants have grown their entries from the same variety of seeds, plants or bulbs. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in these classes are judged according to how typical they are of variety standard.

The selections for this year are:

Flowering Kale Peacock White Hybrid- a new feathered-leafed variety - extra dwarf and compact. As cooler weather approaches, the white shades in the center expand "like webs", enriching their tones and providing color late into fall.

Pink Bride Eggplant - this variety of eggplant is both delicious in dishes and attractive in the garden. The fruit is slender, slightly bent, sporting a white skin with pink to lavender markings.

A miniature yellow rose, "Sunbird" - Potted roses will be distributed at the Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale on Saturday, April 29th, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. Please preregister on tear-off below.

I would like to register for the 1989 Harvest Show Challenge Class.

___ Flowering Kale Peacock White Hybrid - seeds will be sent

___ Pink Bride Eggplant - seeds will be sent

___ "Sunbird" miniature rose - must be picked up at PG Spring Garden Sale on Saturday, April 29th, 9A.M. - 3 P.M.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ZIP_____

PHONE_____

Please return to: Flossie Narducci, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society,
325 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19106

MARCH 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	Pruning Fruit Workshop 25th & Dickinson 10-12:30 4
FLOWER SHOW 5	FLOWER SHOW 6	FLOWER SHOW New Moon 7	FLOWER SHOW 8	FLOWER SHOW 9	FLOWER SHOW 10	FLOWER SHOW 11
FLOWER SHOW 12	13	1st Quarter Moon 14	15	16	St. Patrick's Day Don't forget to plant potatoes today!!! 17	Time to plant! root crops peas spinach mustard 18
19	FIRST DAY OF SPRING!! 20	21	Full Moon 22	PHILADELPHIA GREEN's Birthday 23	Good Friday 24	OK to put out seedlings for: broccoli cabbage cauliflower collards 25
EASTER 26	27	28	29	Last Quarter Moon 30	Container Gardening Workshop Pearl & Conestoga (near 55th & Vine) 11-1 PM 31	

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRUNING FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES March 4

FLOWER SHOW March 5-12

CONTAINER GARDENING WORKSHOP March 31

SPRING GARDEN SALE April 29

CITY GARDENS CONTEST DEADLINE June 10

JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW May 16-20

MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP RALLY To be announced

ANNUAL SPRING TRIP To be announced

SPRUCING UP LAST YEAR'S BARRELS AND WINDOWBOXES

They were beautiful last summer, but over the course of the winter they have started to look tired and run-down. Now is the time to do needed repair and cleanup. Here are a few suggestions:

BARRELS

Have the metal rings fallen down? Tap them back up into place, then secure them by pounding in a few nails to keep them from falling down again.

Top off the soil level with compost or soil. This will remind passers-by that the barrel isn't a trash barrel for their litter.

Mix in rock phosphate as a fertilizer every other year, along with 1/4 cup lime. This is harder if you have planted perennials, but can be done carefully.

Once plants are put in, mulch around them with woodchips. This will keep the soil from drying out as the weather gets warmer.

WINDOWBOXES

Check the edges to see that the wood isn't pulling apart. If it is, pound in a few small nails or use screws.

Check the chains or mounts for strength. Repair them now, before planting.

Painting boxes with a waterproof paint will help to preserve the wood, giving you several more years of use. If you use a wood preservative, be sure that it says on the label that it is not poisonous to plants.

Give a feeding of rock phosphate every other year or so.

Top off with soil or compost.

CULTIVATING KIDS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Get the kids thinking about gardening while it's still too early to go out and dig. Find the following garden words in this Word Scramble:

SEEDS
SHOVEL
FLOWER
RAKE
SOIL
MANURE
RAIN
COLLARD
PEPPER
SCARECROW
GROW

Remember--Words CAN bend around corners.

O	S	E	E	D	R	S	T
M	C	P	M	E	C	H	T
N	A	O	P	L	I	O	S
U	R	P	L	S	N	U	C
D	E	G	F	L	I	E	P
P	C	R	O	W	A	L	A
F	L	O	W	E	R	R	T
G	U	W	S	K	A	E	D

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

SPRING IS SPRUNG, so get your tools out of storage, waterproof your boots, and clean the bags of seed packets out of the back porch.
WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

Early to late March:
- carrots
- beets
- leeks
- lettuce
- onion sets
- peas
- radishes
- spinach
- turnips

Put out transplants:
- broccoli
- cabbage
- cauliflower
- celery
- chives
- collards
- leeks
- parsley

Many people have taken to starting their gardens on Good Friday, maybe because it's the first official holiday of the spring season. But Good Friday comes awfully early this year, so don't yield to temptation. IT REALLY IS TOO SOON TO PUT OUT YOUR TOMATOES!!! It's also too soon for beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, and eggplant.

TESTING SEEDS

Most of us have packets or half-packets of seeds left over from last year. How can you tell if they're still any good? Here's a simple test:

Spread out about 20 seeds on a moist (not wet) paper towel, and roll it up into the shape of a tube. Place the tube in a plastic bag, and put the bag in a warm (not hot) place out of the sun. Unroll it after two week, and check how many have germinated. If less than 75%, or 14 seeds, have sprouted, your seed is too old and you probably should buy new ones.

HOUSEPLANT REMINDER

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro are ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated away.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No.2666

Editor: Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Vol.11, No.3. PHILADELPHIA GREEN a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society April 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Susquehanna Kids

by Barbara Wagner

The children are ready to GROW — in their gardens, at their schools, and in their self awareness. Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne is focusing on the presence, energy and enthusiastic interest of its children. Under the able guidance of **Hilda Armstrong** and **Madeline Philips**, the garden at **22nd & Dauphin** will expand into a horticultural delight this spring. Raised beds for vegetables, additional fruit for its orchard, and cut logs for a cozy sitting area are a few of the additions planned for spring.The children will also choose a new wall mural to enhance the site. Trips are planned for the summer with fund raising support from family and neighbors.

A well-organized garden needs a management team, and our children's garden is no exception. Choosing a leader for a new children's garden club can be as challenging as growing peppers and strawberries.

The **Frederick Douglas Elementary School** at **22nd & Norris Streets** has "adopted" five new trees planted this fall in front of the school. The Water Brigades (groups of first and second graders) enthusiastically carried out their weekly task to nuture and water their new "friends." They will grow together in mutual support.

While we continue to sponsor new gardening projects in the Susquehanna GCT, we also highlight the extraordinary efforts of gardeners who have been at it for years:

Naomi Ray, Annie Smith, Alice Woods, Mr. & Mrs. Chappell, Mr. Sherrod, Mr. & Mrs. Revenell, and **James Brown.**

Also **Amanda Ferguson, Earline Polk, John Brisbon,** and **Ida Mae Thomas, Willie Mae Bullock,** and **Rachel Bagby,** to name just a few. There are many more in the Susquehanna GCT. These are the people who believe that neighborhood restabilization can begin, ever so quietly, in a community garden or surrounded by the blooms of a flower container on a block.

West Hagert GCT

West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne, led by **Dorsha Mason**, recognized the efforts of 25 of their young people. Certificates of Recognition were awarded at a presentation honoring the young workers, several of whom are now adults in the community.

Ms. Mason truly understands the value of giving praise to the many volunteers of the West Hagert community.

Junior Gardeners of Susquehanna

DEAR FRIENDS--

You might have noticed a slight change in the appearance of the PG News in the last two months. On the mailer is a small but important phrase that means a lot to us here at Philadelphia Green — *Printed on Recycled Paper.*

One of the aims of Philadelphia Green is to plant trees. And if we support planting trees, it makes sense that we would also support using paper products that are made without cutting down any trees.

Watch for the *Recycled Paper* logo to start appearing on more of our publications.

This month's issue of the PG News is slightly shorter than usual, since we all spent most of the month preparing for the Flower Show. We hope you visited the Show, and enjoyed our exhibit on street trees, SHADES OF PHILADELPHIA GREEN. A special thank you goes out to all those faithful volunteers who helped to design, assemble, plant, unplant, disassemble, and staff the exhibit.

The May newsletter will return to normal size, with the addition of a full-page of our children's column, Cultivating Kids.

Patricia Schrieber, who usually writes this column, wishes to thank everyone for their support and good wishes during her recovery. Patricia was seriously injured in a car accident while driving home from Flower Show set-up. She is doing well, but expects to be out of work for a while longer. Any cards or letters can be sent care of PHILA GREEN, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106.

Sally

Sally McCabe
Editor

PHILADELPHIA GREEN APRIL 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						TIME TO PLANT: root crops greens from seed potatoes peas onions 1
2	3	4	CITY COUNCIL HEARINGS Let your Council-person know about Philadelphia Green 5	6	7	SEED STARTING WORKSHOP Woodland Presbyterian Church, 42 & Pine 10:00-1:00 8
9	10	11	1st Quarter Moon 12	13	14	TIME TO PLANT: hardy herbs cole crops from plants--cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, etc. 15
16	17	18	PASSOVER begins at sunset 19	PASSOVER 2nd day Full Moon 20	21	MAYOR'S CLEANUP RALLY Civic Center 22
23	24	25	26	27	Last Quarter Moon 28	PLANT SALE Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park 9:00-3:00 29
30						

ON THE VINE

Flossie

KEEP GREENING your neighborhood
by participating in the
Philadelphia Green
SPRING GARDEN SALE
Saturday, April 29th
9 AM to 3 PM
at the Horticulture Center
You can pre-order garden supplies, annuals, & vegetables.
Assorted perennials and roses will also be available for purchase the day of the sale.

Watch for order forms in the mail. Save $ $ $!!!
We offer better prices for PRE-ORDERED items.

SPECIAL BONUS — One FREE cedar window box for every $50 you spend.

LOW-MAINTENANCE LAWNS

Not all of us are blessed with enough room for a lawn. And those who have enough room don't always have the soil, time, or patience needed to keep it green and beautiful. What MOST of us have is a small patch of ground that produces a healthy crop of weeds that we can't even begin to control.

Here are some simple steps to follow if you want a lawn in your garden:

--Get rid of all the weeds. You can level the ground with a bulldozer, dig them out by hand, or spray with a weedkiller that can also kill nearby gardens.
--Clear away the rocks and stones.
--Amend the existing soil by adding three inches of topsoil or compost.
--Dig in the compost and level the ground.
--Spread the proper mix of grass seed for your condition (sun, shade, etc.)
--Cover the seed with burlap to keep the birds out and moisture in.
--Water gently every few days until grass starts to grow.
--Mow the lawn every week from now til doomsday.
--Fertilize every season.
--Curse at dandelions and pigweed daily.

The list goes on forever.

THERE'S AN EASIER WAY THAT REALLY WORKS!!!

Weeds are famous for the way they seem to grow absolutely anywhere, without water, fertilizer, or any attention at all. Why not take those "bad" habits and turn them into an alternate kind of lawn?!

Here's how to do it:

--As soon as weeds start to grow in the spring, cut them short (2-3 inches tall.) You can use a lawnmower, weed wacker, scythe, or sickle.
--Cut them again after a few weeks, as soon as they get to be about 4 or 5 inches tall.
--Decide how tall you want your "lawn" to be, and trim it to that height every few weeks. The more often you trim, the thicker it grows.
--No need to water, fertilize, or worry.

Gardeners at the award-winning **17th & Westmoreland** garden have been growing their no-frills lawn or "meadow" for the last three years, and have had wonderful results with a minimum of care.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Soil Prep

Let's face it—the city isn't exactly well known for its excellent soil. So it's necessary each and every year to prepare the best soil that you can have for this year's crops.

First, clear the planting bed of any rubble or boulders that may have worked their way to the surface during the winter months. With a pointed shovel, dig down to a depth of 8-10 inches. This will be practically impossible the first year, but will get easier with each passing season. Digging this deep breaks up clay chunks and puts dead leaves and grasses from the surface down where they can be of use to plants and worms.

When finished, the garden should look like the surface of the moon—crater after crater. Exposing the subsoil in this manner allows the sun and warm spring air to take the chill off the cold soil. The warmer temperatures also help to make the soil creatures more active and ambitious.

Part two of the process is to improve the texture and quality of your soil. If digging to a depth of 8 inches was only possible by using dynamite, adding a few inches of organic matter is the answer. Peat moss, compost, or mushroom soil will increase the water-holding capacity and make soil easier to work. They will also break down over time to provide food for plants.

Additional food can be given to plants by adding nutrients to the soil now. Bloodmeal and bonemeal are organic fertilizers that provide nitrogen and potassium, needed for root and leaf growth. Rock phosphate is a good source of phosphorus, necessary for flower and fruit production. Sprinkle a few coffee cans of each over the garden. Chemical garden fertilizers like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can also be used now, but only after reading the directions.

After spreading all of these things over the planting bed, rake or hoe everything to break up the large clumps, and to mix together the ingredients. Smooth out the surface and let nature take its course. The payoff for all this effort is a healthier and more productive garden this year.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No.4. May 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Gardeners Design Arbors

PG staff and community recently built arbors in the gardens at 1259 Mascher Street in Kensington and the 2400 block of Marston Street in Strawberry Mansion.

Nelida Pena, who coordinates the childrens' garden on Mascher Street, wanted a structure that would serve as an entryway leading people from the established part of the garden to the new section, recently added when a building was taken down. Her arbor is 8' long by 4' wide, and will soon be covered with grape vines. Neighbors are excited by the project, and are already planning to make wine from this fall's harvest.

Gardeners at Marston St. wanted their arbor to provide shade from the hot afternoon sun. Theirs is 8' by 12', and has room underneath for two benches. Gardeners Peggy Williams and Lorraine Harris planned it as a divider between the main garden and the children's play area, and planted red and white climbing roses on it, partly for beauty, and partly to discourage young gardeners from climbing on it.

Easy plans for both arbors are available from Eve at the Philadelphia Green office.

Ile Ife Community Park

One of this year's brightest "bloomers" is the Ile Ife Community Park in North Philadelphia. The garden has benefitted from many contributors including the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network and Philadelphia Green. The "blood, sweat and tears" of this effort, however, was contributed by the neighborhood's children, local artist Lily Yeh and neighborhood leader Jo-Jo Williams.

The garden started out as compacted clay, trash and glass. After clearing the lot, the children pushed wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of compost and soil onto the site and gradually the garden began to emerge. Lily Yeh described the transformation as magical, and although the garden is still in its initial stages, it has made a vast improvement in the local landscape - a colorful wall mural provides the backdrop for climbing ivy and a centerpiece sculpture of mosaic tile. The garden is a symbol of hope for the neighborhood, a place to relax and enjoy spring.

Municipal Volunteer of the Year– Dorsha Mason

Dorsha Mason, longtime resident and garden leader in West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne, recently won the **Municipal Volunteer of the Year Award**. This Honor is given yearly by the Mayor to recognize someone who has volunteered for a City agency or program. Dorsha was nominated by the 22nd District Police Captain for her work with them for more than two decades. She was a unanimous choice of the Private Sector panel, although there were 85 nominations and 23 finalists. In giving the award, the Mayor said: "She is a perfect example of the spirit of volunteerism . She never seeks recognition—she always says "Not I, but WE."

Of course when she was given the award, she did just that—she accepted it on behalf of her neighbors, whom she claims really deserved it.

Call for Recipes

PHS has received a letter from Ronald Driskill of Olds, Alberta, Canada, requesting recipes for a cook book he is publishing. He writes:

"I need to get recipes that are either heirloom in nature (handed down from one generation to the next within the family) or which have been concocted within recent years by the gardener. All of the recipes should be based upon vegetables that the gardeners have grown within their own backyards (supplements to the dishes, such as meats, are acceptable ingredients)."

All who contribute will have their name and hometown published. Mr Driskill hopes to get 100 to 200 recipes and to put them in a spiral-bound cookbook which is fairly inexpensive. If you send him recipes, please also provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope for future correspondence.

If you would like to respond or have any questions, write to him at the following address:

Ron Driskill
Box 2528
Olds
Alberta, Canada
TOM 1PO

1989 JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW - May 18th to 20th

Bring your kids and grand kids to the Junior Flower Show at the First Bank of the U.S., on 3rd St. between Walnut and Chestnut. If they're budding gardeners or artists, have them bring something they've grown or created. There are many categories they can enter and it's for all age groups. All entries are made on May 16th.

At the Show they can pot up a baby plant to take home and also see special displays by 4-H Clubs and local schools.

It's fun and it's free and we hope to see you there!

Registration of entries:
Tues., May 16th
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

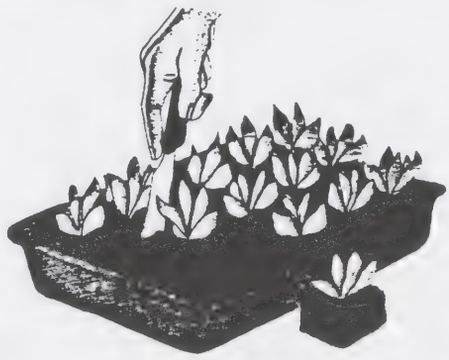
Show open to public:
Thurs. and Fri.
May 18th and 19th
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
and Sat., May 20th
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Food For Thought

PHILADELPHIA FUTURES is a new non-profit organization dedicated to motivating students to stay in school and to prepare for college and the world of work.

They have recently activated a COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID HOTLINE, to provide information and referral. This is an opportunity to talk with financial aid counselors who will answer questions about obtaining money for college. The hotline is sponsored by PSFS, and is open weekdays 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Call 790-1666.

Push up with thumb or finger to pop transplant out of market pack.s



A knife is a good tool for cutting apart plants in an undivided market pack.

Seeds to Plant in May & June

snap beans	kohl rabi	marigolds
lima beans	beets	allyssum
collards	corn	4 o'clocks
cucumbers	turnips	cosmos
chinese cabbage	mustard	snow-in-summer
squash	blackeye	portulaca
cabbage	peas	black-eyed susan
carrots	okra	coreopsis

Calendar of events

May 2 10-3 **Building an Arbor** 2400 N. Marston St. Garden

May 5 **Full Moon**

May 6 10-12 **Perennials & Butterfly Gardens** Aspen Farms 49th & Aspen
1-3 **Food & Gardening Workshops** Growing vegetables, herbs and flowers. Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening Southwark/Queen Village 3rd & Christian Streets

May 7, 14 10-3 **Friends Hospital Azalea Days** Plant Sale & Clinic
Roosevelt Blvd. & Langdon St. (across from Sears)
$2 admission per carload gets you an azalea plant.

May 11 10-3 **Growing & Propagating Herbs** 2906 Diamond Street

May 12 **First Quarter Moon**

May 13 11-4 **Health Fair** in Germantown Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Assoc. of Black Psychologists Vernon Park near Wayne & Chelten (across from YMCA)
10-6 **Spruce Hill Garden Day** Plant Sale and Neighborhood Fair
44th & Locust and surrounding area

May 14 **Mother's Day** Bring home a flower!

May 17 11-5 **Junior Flower Show** registration (*location see below*)

May 18-19 9-5 **Junior Flower Show** OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
20 10-2 First Bank of the United States
3rd Street, between Chestnut & Walnut

May 20 **Full Moon**

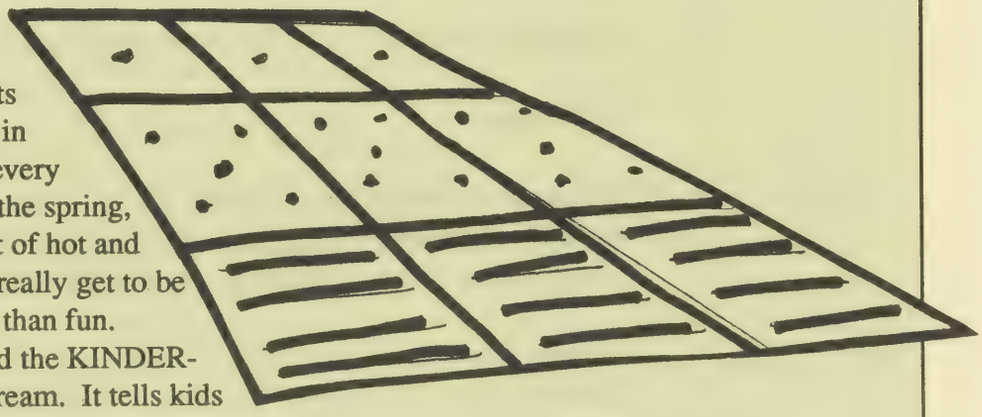
May 26 10-3 **Planting & Care of Shady Perennials & Annuals** Workshop & workday
Strawberry Mansion — 30th & Euclid Streets

May 27 10-1 **Planting a Perennial Butterfly Garden**
Seedy Acres Garden, 908-922 N. Leithgow St .(between 4th & 5th at Poplar)
Bring gloves and bags or boxes to take home goodies

May 27 **Last Quarter Moon**

CULTIVATING KIDS

PLASTIC GARDENING



Seedy Acres "Patchwork Quilt"

For the last five years, the Farm at Seedy Acres, 900 block N. Leithgow Street, has shared its garden with 12-20 kids, ranging in age from three to sixteen. And every year, after a flurry of activity in the spring, the children disappear at the hint of hot and dry weather. I guess their plots really get to be more trouble and work for them than fun.

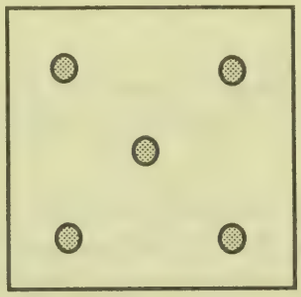
Then Burpee Seeds invented the KINDER-GARDEN. A garden leader's dream. It tells kids where to plant and how many. It keeps the weeds from growing. And it cuts down on the need to water so often. And all it is is a sheet of plastic 4'x8', with holes already cut in it for planting in, and pictures and words giving basic directions. Kids don't even have to know how to read to use it—they can just look at the pictures. The whole package, complete with seeds and directions, is available through the Burpee catalogue for $12.95.

As children's coordinator at Seedy Acres, I have 20 kids in my garden, and their plots vary in size and shape. So what I'm planning to do is to steal Burpee's idea and adapt it to work for us. I'd like to have the kids make their own garden mats, using a large roll of black construction plastic or, even easier, plastic trash bags.

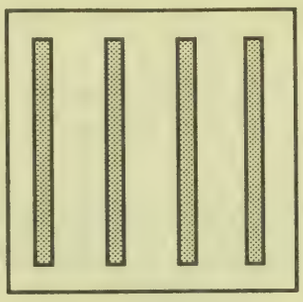
Cover the whole area with plastic. (Soil must already be prepared before this step.) Mark the paths and beds where the kids will plant. Each child can then make a bunch of "patterns" by cutting up brown grocery bags into 2-foot by 2-foot squares. Mark the planting holes with waterproof markers on the paper squares. Then tape the squares side by side on the plastic mat, in whatever pattern that particular child wants to use. Have somebody responsible cut holes or X's through the paper and plastic, and let the kids insert seeds or plants through the holes into the soil underneath.

Here are some patterns to use in making your own garden "patchwork quilts". Remember, different plants need different size and shape spaces. These are suggestions for how close to plant:

Tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and sweet potatoes need to be planted 2 feet apart.



Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, peppers and egg-plants 1 foot apart.



Plant beans, carrots, and beets in rows. Cut a wide slit in the pattern.

On the Vine

We're having a PICNIC
at
Well-Sweep Herb Farm
Port Murray, New Jersey

Date: Friday, July 14th

Depart: 9:00 AM
Penna Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street

Return: by 4:00 PM
Cost: $6.00

Pack your picnic basket & join us for a guided tour
through the herb gardens & gift shop.

---------- ✂ cut here ----------

Please reserve _____seats at $6.00 each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____

DEADLINE: JULY 5, 1989

Make check or money order payable to PHS and
Return to: Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

JUNE/JULY Upcoming Events

June 10 Saturday **DEADLINE** for entering your garden or block in the City Gardens Contest.

10 Sat 10am **Wildflower Walk** Andorra Natural Area. Go where the flowers are! Call the Tree House Visitors' Center, 242-5610 for information.

13 Tues 10am **Bees Make Honey** A special program for preschoolers with an adult. Andorra Natural Area. Call 242-5610 for information. Fee: $3.00.

18 Sunday Father's Day Give Dad a plant!

19 Monday Full Moon "Fledgling" Moon

20 Tuesday Midsummer Nite's Eve Celebrate the longest day of the year in your garden!

21 Wed First Day of Summer

21 10am&6pm Judges' Orientation for City Gardens Contest Fairmount Park Horticulture Center

21 6:30pm **Bugs in Your Garden?** What are they and what can you do about them? 1511 N. Philip St. Kensington South NAC Office Sponsored by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program.

23 Fri 10-2 **Midsummer's Day Fair** Join Urban Gardening and 4-H to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service. Seed swap, games, food and entertainment. Bring a covered dish to share, and a donation of canned goods to be raffled off and given to the winner's favorite charity.

24 Sat 10-1 **Francisville Garden Day** Learn what to do in your garden as summer arrives: what to plant, how to harvest, good ideas about watering and mulching. Bring a picnic lunch. 19th & Parrish

26 Last Quarter Moon

29 Thurs 6:45 **Cedar Park Walk-around**. Meet at 47th & Cedar. Join other gardeners for a tour of Cedar Point Park and the surrounding neighborhood. PG staff will be available for plant identification and summer maintenance advice. Bring your questions.

July 5 Deadline to register for trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm

Check your newsletter for registration form.

July 15 Fri 9-4 **PICNIC Trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm**

Leave from and return to PHS, 325 Walnut St.

On the Vine

Flossie

Hey! Look us over!

The 1989 CGC is sporting a new look.

Watch for the new entry brochure in the mail and be sure to register your garden/garden block in this year's competition.

Deadline is June 10

Here come the judges! And you can be a judge, too.

For further information, call Flossie at 625-8280.

Perfect Transplanting

The perfect transplant

--buy short, stocky plants
--look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
--don't let transplants wilt. This kind of shock will cause them to set premature flowers and fruit, which stresses the plant

"Hardening off"

--get plants used to the out doors gradually
--set outside for a short time the first day, out of direct sunlight and wind
--set out for a longer amount of time each day
--plant out in ground only after plants have been hardened off for 4-7 days

Plant when conditions are best

--after rain or before rain
--on a cloudy day
--in late afternoon
--after soil is amended and turned

How to plant

--remove gently from container
--handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
--for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
--set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
--firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
--after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole.

One week later

--water with liquid plant food, following directions on label

Transplants to plant in May & June

vegetables
annuals for sun
- salvia
- snapdragons
- petunias
- marigolds
- dusty miller

annuals for shade
- coleus
- begonia
- impatiens
- vinca

perennials

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

The mysteries of 5-10-5 revealed

Feeding our gardens is something that needs to be done every year, in several different ways. The easiest way is with a "quick fix" commercial fertilizer. But how do you decide which kind to use, and when, and whether the easiest way is always the best?

Packaged fertilizers are identified by a mysterious "code" or group of three numbers, like 5-10-5, or 20-16-10 on every label. Once you've cracked the code, figuring out which one you need gets a lot simpler.

What do the numbers mean? Are they the zip code of where the fertilizers came from? Are they the social security numbers of the plant spirits that make your garden grow? Each mix is made up of three main ingredients—Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, or N, P, and K—the foods that plants need the most.

Nitrogen is necessary for leaf growth, and is especially necessary for leafy plants like collards, lettuce, or spinach. Phosphorus is important for root growth, and for flowers and fruit. Potassium provides for general sturdiness and health, and for balance between the other ingredients.

The three number code, known as a ratio of ingredients, tell the percentage of each factor in the mix. 5-10-5 means the mix contains 5% Nitrogen, 10% Phosphorus, and 5% Potassium. The leftover is filler, since straight N-P-K would be so strong it would burn up plants in a matter of mnutes.

When applying a chemical fertilizer, MORE is NOT BETTER!! Follow these rules:

-- use a light hand. Too much can kill plants.

--never put chemical fertilizer next to plant roots.

-- wherever possible, use organic alternatives like bone meal, rock phosphate, compost and well-seasoned manure. These add organic matter as well as nutrients, and improve the quality of the soil.

-- improve soil with compost in fall and spring. Use granular fertilizers when planting in spring, and a water-soluble fertilizer when watering throughout the season.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Editor: Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No.5. June 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Strawberry Mansion Herbs

Strawberry Mansion has always been a neighborhood known for its historic homes and beautiful architecture. But now it also has a few garden landmarks worth knowing about.

Tucked away behind a wrought iron fence in the **2900 block of Diamond St**. is a Demonstration Garden managed by **Mrs. IsabelleWashington**. The demo garden was developed as a meeting place for community workshops. At the most recent workshop, PG staff planted a miniature herb garden, small enough to fit into any size community garden.

The herb patch, made up of kitchen or "culinary" herbs, measures about 4 feet by 3 feet. Plants include basil, globe basil, lemon thyme and thyme oregano, with a border of parsley. The central feature is a rosemary planted in a pot that can be pulled out of the ground and brought indoors during the winter months.

Other features of the garden include a grape arbor, a "green and gold" bed, a vegetable garden, and brick borders.

Stop in and visit Mrs. Washington, who lives next door to the garden.

Bache Martin Kids

April showers bring May flowers—and June heat makes them grow! **Carol Frazier, Ms. George**, 22 club members and **Tony** the maintenance man are already planting their flowers and vegetables.

Bache Martin School, at 22nd & Brown Streets, called on Philadelphia Green to help them with their vegetable plots, since they didn't yield a very big harvest last year.

Jeff Myers and **Janet Carter** from PG met with Carol and Tony to teach them the fine art of pruning; the finished product of that workshop was a lot more sunlight on the garden area for planting seeds started indoors.

Sign of the Times

If you ride SEPTA or Amtrak along the North Philadelphia corridor, look for the new **Glenwood Acres** billboard. Over the past few years so many train passengers have asked about the huge garden that **Wing Pepper**, husband of PHS President Jane Pepper and frequent train rider, donated the sign. The 8' by 10' billboard proclaims that the garden is a project of PG and the neighbors, and displays tomatoes, squash, flowers, and, of course, peppers.

On the other side of the garden, facing Lehigh, plans continue for landscaping the slope with terraces, tree groves, and naturalized, low-care plantings.

The new central sitting area at 49th & Aspen. For more about Aspen Farms, see page 3.

Greening Up PHA

Johnson Vegetables

by Deborah Hall

Nellie Reynolds was the instigator when **Johnson Homes** tenants decided to approach Philadelphia Green about starting a vegetable garden. Although some residents had been gardening on their own for many years, and with PG since 1987, very few had enough room or sunlight to grow vegetables.

Fortunately, PHA holds the title to a vacant lot nearby at Ridge & Glenwood, which has both plenty of room and plenty of sunlight.

Working with PG staff, **Nellie Reynolds, Elaine Young, Gertrude Dyer** and others got together and made a comprehensive landscape plan for the area. The design includes 15 vegetable plots, a sitting area with tables and benches, fruit trees and ornamental trees. Half the beds are already planted, and the rest are waiting for water to be installed

Nellie Reynolds is very excited about the garden. She has had a long-standing dream to see that piece of land remain open and beautiful and for the use of the tenants.

Plant Propagation

by Jeff Myers

2 PHA sites were chosen for a special Plant Propagation workshop. **Johnson Homes** and **Champlost Homes** were selected because they contain a large number of experienced gardeners clamoring for more advanced information. Gardeners were shown techniques for taking hardwood and softwood cuttings and the proper use of rooting hormones.

Johnson Homes had an overwhelming response. 55 gardeners crammed into the Activity Center and, armed with pruners and recycled containers, prepared soil mixes and took cuttings. Some of the plants propagated were arborvitae, holly, euonymous, hydrangea and rose-of-sharon.

One of **Susie Chesson's** gardeners at **2620 Norris Court** was so inspired after attending the workshop that she ran out and immediately took cuttings of her own euonymous, planting them in her front yard.

When delivering annuals, Philadelphia Green staff saw that evidence of the techniques learned at the workshop was everywhere.

Planting the seeds of interest in young gardeners at the Abbottsford Homes Basic Plant Propagation workshop this spring.

West Phila Landscape & Greening Project

Aspen Farms News

by Denise Jefferson

Aspen Farms is having a facelift! Working with Philadelphia Green and students from the University of Penn Landscape Architecture, president **Hayward Ford** and gardeners are implementing a new plan for the garden. The design, which is almost completed, makes the center of the garden a very beautiful meeting place, with benches, trellises for shade, and almost a dozen three-foot deep raised beds. **John Widrick**, a student from the University, worked with Aspen Farms to develop a design to improve the esthetics of the garden.

Surrounding the garden is the chainlink fence that the group raised money to install. Outside the fence are new street trees, a row of multi-stemmed dogwoods. Recently, Aspen Farms installed a Butterfly Garden, planted with shrubs, perennials and herbs to attract butterflies.

Let me tell you a little about Aspen Farms. It started in 1975 and presently there are 44 gardeners. There is a uniqueness about **Albert Brown** who is 95 years young. He's been a longtime gardener at Aspen Farms. The reason why this garden has survived so long is due to the respect they have for one another.

There are many faces to Aspen Farms, such as the program with the **Rhoads School.** This is to help develop horticultural skills with the children. A savings bond of $ 50.00 is given to the child who shows the most interest. This program is in its fourth year and is directed by **Mr. Charles Clark**. There are also garden tours, kindergarten and day-care, sponsored by the **Mill Creek Council.**

Belmont Update

by Susan Ross

Getting to appreciate the greening of a neighborhood—it's like a child with a new toy. You hear all the "ahhh's", or "those flowers sure do look pretty, even the neighborhood doesn't look the same," or "My flowers are bigger than yours!!"

Mrs. Marie Copes of the **4100 block of Brown St.** thought she was happy when her block got street trees. Then they became an official "Blockscape", adding windowboxes and wine barrels with shrubs. Her block just doesn't look the same anymore, and she and the neighbors are overjoyed.

Mr. Davy Williams of 4000 Parrish St. took an interest in local greening, and got the mostly senior citizens on his block to participate. He was especially impressed with how the project got all his neighbors, both young and old, to work together.

Ms. Jackie Johnson of the Belmont Improvement Association saw how greening was catching on in the neighborhood, and spearheaded the movement to get her block, 4000 Ogden, involved. Now they're a full-fledged garden block with windowboxes and wine barrels with shrubs.

The Greening Area in Belmont is presently the 4000 and 4100 blocks from Brown to Westminister, but those in the surrounding area are encouraged to apply to become Garden Block, Lotscape or Street Tree Projects.

Spruce Hill Blockscapes

by Sally McCabe

Sponsored by the **Spruce Hill Garden Club**, neighbors in the Spruce Hill area will be developing "Block-scape" plans with Philadelphia Green and the Landscape Architecture Department of the University of Penn. A **Blockscape** is a landscape plan that considers a whole block as if it were one big garden. The greening projects can include front porches, front yards, sidewalks, street trees, and sometimes even the street itself.

Community members are meeting with Landscape Architects and PG staff to make designs for their blocks. Blocks to be included this year are **45th from Spruce to Locust, 4500 & 4600 blocks of Spruce,** and **Woodland Terrace**, with 4200 block Sansom as an alternate.

Woodland Terrace (between 40th & 41st, Woodland & Baltimore), already has a lot of horticulture going on in their block. Their idea for expanding their growing area is to cut larger tree pits in the sidewalk, sometimes even extending them from tree to tree. This gives more room for the trees to grow and less chance for tree roots to pull up the sidewalks, and provides neighbors with more space for growing flowers, shrubs and small trees.

The **West Philadelphia Landscape Plan and Greening Project** is a cooperative effort of the West Philadelphia Partnership, Philadelphia Green, and the University of Pennsylvania. Primary Funding is from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Gardening Tips from All Over

Start Pansies in July

Pansies are one of the hardiest flowers here in Philadelphia, often blooming well into the winter, then peaking their faces out of the snow on the first warm day of February.

Pansies are biennials, which means that they normally will bloom the second year. What that means to us is that we can take a short cut and start the

seeds NOW, making this fall the first year, and next spring the second. Expect blooms anytime the late winter weather warms up for a day or so.

Plant seeds in a flat of potting soil, in rows about 1 1/2 inches apart. Cover the tiny seeds with about 1/4 inch of fine sphagnum moss. Make sure you label each row by color, so you'll know what's what next spring. Transplant the seedlings in August, placing them where you'd like them to bloom in the spring.

This is the only way you'll ever have enough pansies in your garden without a large hole in your pocketbook.

Lazy Composting

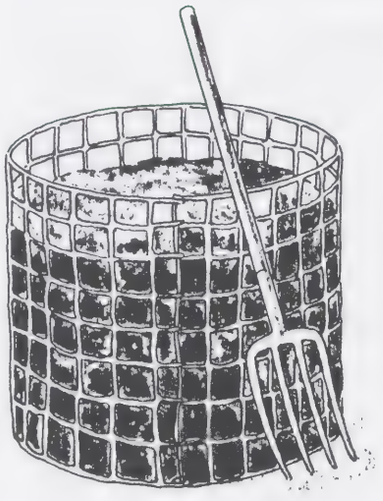
Here's a trick for no-work composting in the vegetable garden.

We all know what tomato cages look like, with the plant growing on the inside of a hoop of wire. Well, here's something that's exactly backwards from that—the hoop on the inside, and the plants on the outside.

Take a section of fencing wire, chicken wire, snow fence, or screening 3 feet tall and 6 feet long and make a circle. Stand it up in the middle of the tomato patch, letting the plants grow up the outside of the cage for support. Tie plants if you want with old stockings or other flexible ties.

Now the composting starts. As you weed your garden, throw the weeds and plant scraps into the cage. Add table scraps (no meat or bread, please), a few shovels full of soil, manure if you like, and more weeds whenever you pull them. Although this isn't a proper compost "pile", the plant material will break down over the gardening season. And as the weeds and scraps rot down, they slowly release their minerals and nutrients to feed the plants growing near them.

At the end of the season, pull up the cage and roll it away for next year. Rake the compost out over the garden to continue breaking down over the winter months.



Cutting Roses

One of the best things you can do in the summer for your roses is to keep cutting them to enjoy indoors, especially at the kitchen table. Removing roses from the bush encourages new buds to form; leaving flowers on the bush to ripen into rose hips saps the plant's energy.

According to **Jeff Myers**, Education Specialist with Philadelphia Green, when cutting roses, look carefully at the stem under the flower. The first few leaves directly underneath the flower have three leaflets. Farther down the stem the leaves have five parts. Snip the stem below the point where the three-part leaves are, since this is where the plant is prepared to make the strongest new flower bud.

JUNE/JULY Upcoming Events

June 10 Saturday **DEADLINE** for entering your garden or block in the City Gardens Contest.

10 Sat 10am **Wildflower Walk** Andorra Natural Area. Go where the flowers are! Call the Tree House Visitors' Center, 242-5610 for information.

13 Tues 10am **Bees Make Honey** A special program for preschoolers with an adult. Andorra Natural Area. Call 242-5610 for information. Fee: $3.00.

18 Sunday Father's Day Give Dad a plant!

19 Monday Full Moon "Fledgling" Moon

20 Tuesday Midsummer Nite's Eve Celebrate the longest day of the year in your garden!

21 Wed First Day of Summer

21 10am&6pm Judges' Orientation for City Gardens Contest Fairmount Park Horticulture Center

21 6:30pm **Bugs in Your Garden?** What are they and what can you do about them? 1511 N. Philip St. Kensington South NAC Office Sponsored by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program.

23 Fri 10-2 **Midsummer's Day Fair** Join Urban Gardening and 4-H to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service. Seed swap, games, food and entertainment. Bring a covered dish to share, and a donation of canned goods to be raffled off and given to the winner's favorite charity.

24 Sat 10-1 **Francisville Garden Day** Learn what to do in your garden as summer arrives: what to plant, how to harvest, good ideas about watering and mulching. Bring a picnic lunch. 19th & Parrish

26 Last Quarter Moon

29 Thurs 6:45 **Cedar Park Walk-around**. Meet at 47th & Cedar. Join other gardeners for a tour of Cedar Point Park and the surrounding neighborhood. PG staff will be available for plant identification and summer maintenance advice. Bring your questions.

July 5 Deadline to register for trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm

Check your newsletter for registration form.

July 15 Fri 9-4 **PICNIC Trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm**

Leave from and return to PHS, 325 Walnut St.

On the Vine

We're having a PICNIC
at
Well-Sweep Herb Farm
Port Murray, New Jersey

Date: Friday, July 14th

Depart: 9:00 AM
Penna Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street

Return: by 4:00 PM
Cost: $6.00

Pack your picnic basket & join us for a guided tour
through the herb gardens & gift shop.

---------- cut here ----------

Please reserve _____seats at $6.00 each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____

DEADLINE: JULY 5, 1989

Make check or money order payable to PHS and
Return to: Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

More About Roses

Old-fashioned wild roses, called **"Rugosa" roses**, often have very large rose hips. These hips, often are big as cherries, are tart-sweet and very high in vitamin C. They can be eaten raw like fruit, or dried and eaten later like candy.

These rugged roses have been around for a long time, and for good reason. Although their flowers are not as fancy or as beautiful, they are resistant to many modern diseases, need little or no pruning, and will grow where practically nothing else would dare.

Advice for DeadHeads

Flowers have one purpose in life, and it isn't necessarily to look beautiful for you or me. Their aim is to form flowers, get pollinated, and go to seed. After that job is done, they usually take life easy and die back.

If your interest is in flowers, not seeds, here's what you need to do to slow down the natural cycle: don't let the seeds form.

As soon as each flower is done, remove it from the plant. Better yet, remove some of them while they're still blooming, put them in water, and brighten up someone else's day with a bouquet. (Yes, Miss Bettie the receptionist at the PG office always accepts gifts of flowers.)

Removing the flower before it sets seed, or **DEADHEADING**, will force the plant to form more flowers as it tries again to complete the cycle. This gives you more and healthier flowers over a longer time.

If you <u>want</u> seeds to form, so that flowers will reseed and come back next year, it's okay to let a few flowers set seed. Make sure they are the prettiest and the ones you like best on that particular plant, since these will form the healthiest new plants. Remember, though, that hybrid flowers form sterile seeds or seeds that are not true to the parents, so don't expect much from these.

What to Plant in June

From Seed
beans
beats
carrots
collards
corn
cucumbers
pumpkins
squash
herbs
dahlias
marigolds
peanuts

From Plants
broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
celery
cucumbers
eggplant
peppers
tomatoes
sweet potatoes
okra
squash
herbs
perennials
annuals

Cultivating Kids

Butterflies in Your Garden

When did flowers learn to fly?? What? That's not a flower? It's not a bird? What is it? Where did it come from? How can I get more?

Sometimes the most colorful thing in the garden isn't a flower. Even if you live right smack in the middle of the city, you can still have plenty of butterflies to entertain and fascinate everyone, young and old, gardeners and passersby. Kids always have lots of questions. Here are some of most asked about butterflies.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? Some butterflies are born right here in Philadelphia. Others fly in from as far away as Florida or Mexico, where they spend the winter months. Once spring arrives they migrate northward, getting here some time around May and leaving in September. They lay their eggs on specific plants, depending on which plants their young will like best. The eggs hatch and **caterpillars,** which look nothing at all like butterflies, emerge.

Over the course of the summer, the caterpillars eat and grow, shedding their skin several times and getting bigger. Once they have finished growing, they spin a cocoon or find a place to hide. Once hidden they go through **metamorphosis,** which means they change from one shape into something completely different. They emerge in the shape of a butterfly.

WHAT DO THEY EAT? If the eggs are laid on the proper plant, the caterpillars will hatch and start eating. But they're very fussy, and if thay can't find the exact right plant, they starve to death rather than settle for second best.

Most of the beautiful butterflies commonly seen in our gardens grow up on weed plants or trees. Monarchs (the very large orange butterflies that we often see flitting from flower to flower) will only lay their eggs on milkweed plants. Black or Yellow Swallowtails prefer Queen Anne's Lace (wild carrot). Both these weeds are very common on vacant lots around the city.

Adult butterflies have to eat too. These prefer the nectar or juices of flowers, and do a neat job of pollinating as they go about eating their dinners. They also love fresh manure and dead animals, and can often be seen camouflaging the ugly sights with their beautiful wings.

WHY DO THEY COME HERE? Butterflies go where they feel most welcome, where the conditions are just right. Here's what they want:

—Plenty of the right stuff to eat for adults and young.

—Bright flowers, and they prefer colors in this order: purple, bright pink, yellow & orange, red, and white last, unless it has a very sweet smell.

—A source of water—puddles are best, but they'll settle for containers of wet sand or soil, or shallow bird baths.

—A warm place to stretch out their wings in the sun. Flat rocks or brick paths get a lot of butterfly traffic since they hold heat past the warmest part of the day.

If you and your children would like to read more about butterflies, consult your local librarian.

Welcome new groups

Garden Blocks

3300 Water St.
3300 "A" St.
3400 Lee St.
200 Ontario St.
2100 Corlies St.
2900 Turner St.
2000 Marston St
2300 N. 26th St.
3000 W. Euclid St.
3000 W. Sedgley Ave.
3100 W Gordon St.
4000 Reno St.
4900 Brown St.
4800 Aspen St.
4100 Brown St.
4000 Ogden St.
4000 Parrish St.
4900 Aspen St.
700 N. 49th St.
Aspen Village
4600 Westminster Ave.
1500 Lehigh Ave.
1900 N. Van Pelt St.
1900 Page St.
1600 Edgley St.
2700 N. Sydenham St.
2100 N. Philip St.
2200 N. 2nd St.
2000 N. Palethorpe St.
2100 N. Palethorpe St.
2200 N. Palethorpe St.
2200 Hancock St.
2100 N. Howard St.
2200 N. Howard St.
100 N. Susquehanna Ave.
1500 S. Taylor St.
1200 S. Bucknell St.
2000 Ellsworth St.
1200 S. 21st St.

Lotscapes

2900 W Arizona St.
2500 Stanley St.
3000 W. Euclid St.
21st & Ellsworth St.

Street Trees

4900 Pulaski St.
200 W. Seymore St.
2500 Marston St.

Mulching Street Trees

Mulch can be a choice of materials used to cover the soil, providing a barrier to weeds, an enrichment to the soil, and a way to retain moisture.

In the forest, nature provides a constant source of mulch by depositing leaves, twigs and other materials on the soil surface. In urban areas, nature's cycle is broken by removing this natural cover and replacing it with concrete and asphalt.

You can come to the aid of your trees being a substitute for nature; put down an enriching material like compost or old manure, and add a good cover of woodchips, shredded bark or bark nuggets.

Add the compost or manure in the fall, when the leaves have dropped and the tree is going dormant. This will allow the nutrients to seep slowly into the soil during the winter months. This slow decomposition will prevent any burning of roots from too many strong nutrients at once. Work a one to two-inch layer of compost or manure lightly into the top layer of soil. Then give the tree a thorough watering with eight to ten gallons of water. Once the soil has been enriched, the covering material can be added as a blanket to prevent weeds from growing in the pit and to keep moisture from evaporating out of the soil.

Since your tree will benefit from the reduced weed competition and added moisture, a covering of mulch should be maintained throughout the growing season.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Drought Successes

Do you remember the Summer of '88? We were drenched with sweat. Anyone with air conditioning stayed inside immediately in front of it.

As the temperature rose to new heights, complaints and irritation also reached new heights. People and plants suffered alike. Restrictions on watering put an additional burden on plants.

There were some plants that survived and did well. In a recent issue of "Grower Talks" magazine, Debbie Hamrick talks about the ones that lasted. She visited large trial plantings at university horticultural departments and seed companies. In all, she covered a total of six locations in the East, Midwest, and South.

The results of these trials can help you make this summer's garden a success. Following are plants which you will want to consider:

Everblooming Begonias - Roxys, Expressos
Dianthus - Telstar Series
Geraniums - Red Bandit, Orbit
Impatiens
Pansies - F1 hybrids
Petunias - Multifloras
Common red salvia - Scarlet Queen, Lambrusco, Burgundy, Tops Series
Vinca - Cooler series
Phlox Drummondi - Petticoat Pink

Other tips which Ms. Hamrick suggests are helpful. One is that impatiens need to be very well watered if they are grown in full sunlight. Surprisingly, she found that marigolds did not hold up in the heat, although a few varieties did well. These were Janie Tangerine, Orange Jacket, Yellow and Harmony Hero and Early Queen Sophia.

Take advantage of last summer's results so that your garden will "beat the heat".

Here's a list from the National Garden Bureau of plants that are rated nationally as heat and drought resistant.

Vegetables

Cucumber
Squash
Muskmelon
Tomato
Okra
Watermelon

Perennials

Achillea (Yarrow)
Asclepias (Butterfly weed)
Coreopsis
Gaillardia
Lavendar
Rudbeckia

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No. 6 July/August 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

West Shore Triangle

by Eileen Gray

The large triangular raised bed at the corners of 47th, Paschall and Gray's Ferry was constructed and planted last summer by Philadelphia Green as part of our "Ribbon of Gold" project.

The planter, in its full glory this season, is showering the passers-by with bursts of golden, yellow colors. To further compliment the bed, a new post and rail fence was added along the back edge and a few roses were incorporated to extend the season of color.

Under the conscientious care of **Willie and Mattie Robbins**, the triangle is a cheerful greeting to all who pass by West Shore.

Marston Street Park

by Olivia Lehman

Not even a bad back will keep **Lorraine Harris** from joining **Peggy Williams** and **Dorothy Johnson** in the lush **Marston Street** "Park." Seated on her white stool, Lorraine can be seen cultivating annuals, tidying her azaleas and waging the endless war against weeds. Nearby, Peggy might be caught pruning or watering and Dot creating new designs in her annual bed.

This huge garden is located on the **2400 block of Marston Street** in Strawberry Mansion. After one glance at the spot you'll know that people have been busy! Empress trees create a tall canopy over annual beds and rustic patches of shade plantings. At the entranceway, shrubs, bulbs and chrysanthemums flourish in the raised beds erected by young people from the Philadelphia Anti-Graffitti network. **Booker Moore**'s cross made from dusty miller and red salvia, and a grand arbor draped with roses and hanging baskets, make this park unusual.

Gardens thrive under hard working hands. On Marston Street, the hands belong to: **Dorothy Johnson, Celia Lindsay, Peggy Williams, Booker Moore, Martha Cureton, Lorraine Harris, Mamie Johnson,** and **Crystal Morman.** The first beds in the garden were formed by the little hands of: **Pee Wee, Corey, Aisha, Rakeda, Doris,** and **Ronnie.**

Congratulations to everyone!

The Marston Street Gardeners take a break to admire their handiwork.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN Greens

Debbie H.'s Greens
(a recipe for lower cholesterol)

6 smoked turkey butts
2 onions, chopped
3 green onions, chopped
3 stalks celery, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 clove of garlic, chopped
a couple of carrots, grated
salt, pepper to taste

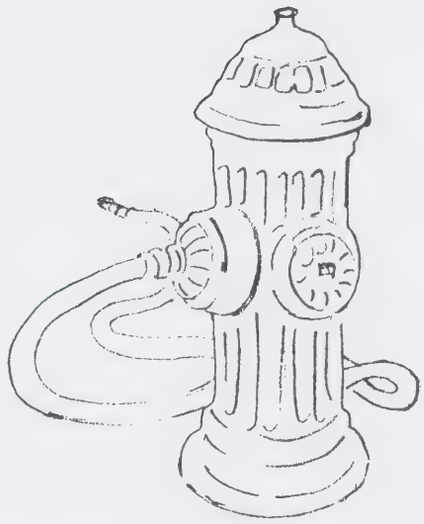
Put all the above ingredients in a pot with water and simmer for 45 minutes. Clean very well kale, turnips and mustard. Then chop them up. Add the turnips first to the pot, then the kale and mustard. Simmer until tender. Serve the greens with cornbread.

Angela's Quick Italian Kale

Saute 1 - 3 cloves of garlic, which have been flattened with the side of a knife in olive oil. Add washed kale (do not dry), salt, pepper and season with fresh chopped oregano and thyme. Cover and gently steam until tender. Sprinkle with vinegar or lemon juice for extra flavor.

How to Grow Perfect Squash, Cucumbers, Gourds and Melons

(and enter them in the Harvest Show)



Place clean boards under promising young fruit. As your prize-winning vegetables grow they will be isolated from disease, insects and the constant moisture of the earth. If your vegetable vines grow on a trellis, make expandable slings out of pantyhose to support the expanding produce. Your cucumbers will be straight and blemish free. Make sure your trellis is strong enough to support 6 pound gourds, or a four-foot long Tahitian squash, or even a pumpkin too heavy to lift.

for exhibition, remove all but a few blossoms from the plant, leaving only two or three to develop fully. This way the plant will put all of its strength and energy into those fruit, instead of spreading it out to ripen many fruit.

Two Peas in a Pod

Many words we use as gardening terms have other colorful and descriptive meanings in everyday language. For example, rhubarb refers to a heated dispute. A beanball is a baseball thrown at a batter's head. Can you match up the following gardening words with their other meanings?

1. CORNY	A. FAVORITE PERSON
2. RASPBERRY	B. OLD-FASHIONED
3. PEANUT	C. CRAZY
4. TWO PEAS IN A POD	D. REDHEAD
5. CARROT TOP	E. SCAR TISSUE
6. WALLFLOWER	F. ON THE SIDELINES
7. APPLE OF MY EYE	G. COULDN'T CARE LESS
8. CAULIFLOWER EAR	H. TINY PERSON
9. OUT OF YOUR GOURD	I. VERY SIMILAR
10. SOUR GRAPES	J. A MOCKING SOUND

CULTIVATING KIDS

Introducing.....

a new class for kids at the 1989 Harvest Show

MINI WINDOW BOXES

This class is open for group participation only. (4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, community gardening youngsters, etc.)

Plant flowers, fruits, vegetables and/or herbs in 4" pots and bring them to the show to arrange in a mini-window box. The box measures 15" x 5 1/2" x 5" deep.

There are a limited number of entries, so be sure to pre-register by calling Flossie at 625-8280.

Aspen Village Kids

by Susan Ross

Learning how different plants grow from a child's point of view is amazing, and it's the responsibility of the adults to cultivate this fascination in the children's garden.

Recently the children from **Aspen Village, 700 N. 49th Street**, became involved in learning how to plant. They learned which plants and veggies were different and which required individual care. **Tito** and **Tony** are two of the enthusiastic gardeners. They have a playground on the Folsom Street side which was covered with Alanthus trees and debris. So PHILADELPHIA GREEN coordinator **Denise Jefferson,** along with **Susan Ross** and **Melinda Johnson**, gave a pruning workshop, bringing out the maintenance crew to get involved. It was a lot of hard work, but you should see it now. There will be swings for the children and a whole new outlook for them, which started out with some little green plants.

After working in split wine barrels in their playground, they moved on to plant another site in their complex which is located on a slope. Philadelphia Green stabilized the hill with boulders and wood chips.

Thanks to **Tito Nazario, Tony Frazier, James Rice, Soud Wooden, Melissa Mayberry, Dave, Sylvia Bell** and everyone else who helped.

Calendar of events

July 2	New Moon
July 4	Independance day
July 14	Trip to Well-Sweep Herb Farm
July 18	Full Moon
June 25 - July 16	Preliminary Judging, City gardens Contest
August 1 - 17	Final Judging, City Gardens Contest
August 1	New Moon
August 16	Full Moon

LOOKING AHEAD

September 4	Labor Day
September 12	City Gardens Contest Awards Ceremony Port of History Museum
September 21 & 22	Harvest Show Registration
September 23 & 24	Harvest Show

CITY GARDENS CONTEST

Judges have been visiting wonderful gardens all across the city this summer. If your garden scored high, you will be receiving a postcard saying that you have qualified for Final Judging. Another panel of judges will be coming around in August for a second look.

Keep those gardens neat, flowers deadheaded and weeds pulled and maybe you'll BE A WINNER.

Drought Alert??

Even though it seems like this spring has been the wettest on record, we are all still required to file for **HYDRANT PERMITS.** These permits are registered with the City, and must be renewed every year. The cost is $9.

If you still haven't obtained your permit for this year, you can do so through the PG office. Call Bettie McGill at 625-8280 for the correct form. Be sure to have the exact address, and be able to tell her whether it is locked, and if the lock is on the side or on top. She will process the request with your $9 check or money order, and the permit will be sent directly to you.

Staff Changes

Olivia Lehman nas left PHILADELPHIA GREEN staff as of June 30. Residents of Strawberry Mansion and Francisville will remember her best for her friendly and cooperative ways, her enthusiasm with children, and her passion for lawns and lawnmowers. We wish her well as she pursues her interests with education and the arts.

Verlene Johnson has accepted the position of Neighborhood Coordinator for Strawberry Mansion and Francisville. Hers is a familiar face, since she has been with PG in various positions for more than three years, as an Intern, Garden Assistant, and most recently as Program Assistant with Olivia Lehman, whose position she has been recruited to fill. Her ability to enlist cooperation from the community will be of benefit both to PG and to any neighborhood where she works.

Janet Carter (Ferrell) has made herself so indispensible as a member of the PG Education team that she has now been enlisted as full time Education Assistant. Her exuberance for gardening, her experience with the community, and her ability to keep her teammates motivated will serve her well on our staff.

On the Vine

Put on your apron, get out the mixing bowls, and whip up a culinary concoction for the Baked Goods Class at the Harvest Show.

How about.....

a SWEET POTATO POUND CAKE

or

a loaf of HOT PEPPER CORN BREAD

or

a dozen WHITE POTATO HERB ROLLS

Pre-register your tasty treats by filling out the card in your Harvest Show booklet or call Flossie at 625-8280.

ANSWERS 1B, 2J, 3H, 4I, 5D, 6F, 7A, 8E, 9C, 10G

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Second Chance Gardening

In the heat of July and August, just about all of your cool-season crops have bolted and gone to seed, wishing they could have gone south for the summer. And when sweat is running down your face and all you want to do is sit in the shade with an iced tea, it's hard to think about planting lettuce and other spring greens.

But think ahead—even though it's 90° now, there's probably going to be a frost by the end of October, and that's only three months away. And between now and then there's bound to be a good bit of cool weather— and that's when we get a second chance at gardening. Planted now, many vegetable crops will have up to 90 days to mature in the cool of the fall.

Planting the **Second Chance Garden** is very much like planting the spring garden. Most important is, of course, soil preparation. Spring and summer crops have been steadily draining nutrients from the soil, and these need to be replaced if fall crops are to do well. Dig in plenty of compost, rotted manure and bone meal, as well as a sprinkling of regular garden fertilizer, like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10. Plant seeds a little deeper than you would in the spring, since the ground dries out faster in the summer sun.

Seeds will just about explode out of the warm ground, so it's vital that you keep a close watch, and don't let seedlings dry out. Given plenty of heat and water, fall crops will at first grow faster than they would in the spring. But since the end of their season is during cooler weather, they slow down to finish maturing, so it all comes out even in the end. Read your seed packets for dates to maturity, and be sure to plant seed that still has enough time to grow up before frost, (less than 90 days.)

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program has thoughtfully compiled a list of last possible planting dates for people like me, appropriately called "The Procrastinators' Guide." For a complete list, call the Gardenphone at 560-4167. Here's a partial listing for July and August:

by July 5	melons, winter squash, tomato plants, lima beans, blackeye peas, and soy beans.
by July 15	dried beans, eggplant and pepper plants, cucumbers, summer squash.
by Aug 5	okra, chinese cabbage, broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, cauli flower, celery, beans, carrots, chard.
by Aug 15	collard plants, kale, parsley, kohlrabi, turnips.
by Sept 1	leaf lettuce, head lettuce, mustard greens, peas, spinach.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Editor: Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No.7. September 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Uber Street Magic

by Olivia Lehman

When he's not cruising the town in his chic blue van, **Calvin Nelson** can be found performing magic tricks on the **800 block of Uber Street** in Francisville. By magic, I refer to the day we dropped off hundreds of bricks in his garden and came by just a few days later, only to find a gorgeous new brick path and floor beneath the grape arbor.

I also remember the day a "custom built" metal arch appeared at the garden entrance on Uber Street; your eyes aren't deceiving you if you see fragrant roses edging their way around that arch. Who said Monet's Giverny gardens could only exist in France? We've got Mr. Nelson!

Mr. Nelson is not alone in his adventure. Other Francisvillians will have given away many a tomato, rose and lettuce head by summer's end. They are: **Mrs. Smith, Mr. Coachman, Mr. Sherrill, Ned McGuire, Mr. Smith, Connie and Alan, Anne Krinsky, Teen Haven**.....and the list goes on.

These people make Francisville look great!

The "King of TownWatch" on the 800 block of N. Lawrence Street does more than watch for prowlers--he watches tulips grow. For more about planting fall bulbs for spring bloom, see Digging Out the Facts

Community Gardening Conference

Philadelphia Green, in cooperation with Penn State Urban Gardening, is co-hosting the 10th Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association from October 8th to 13th. The theme is **"Community Development Through Greening."**

About 200 community gardening professionals, along with local landscape architects and community gardeners, will gather in the International House in West Philadelphia. They can attend over 25 workshops and presentations in three major topics: **Working Within Communities**, **Open Space and Landscape Architecture**, and **Professional Development**.

As the home of the largest and most successful community gardening program in the country, Philadelphia has a lot to show off to ACGA members. The combined staffs of PG and UGP are planning to do exactly that!

If you are interested in attending or want more information on the conference, call Philadelphia Green.

Greening Up PHA

Maintenance Training

by Jeffrey Myers

As PHA tenants improve their horticultural skills with experience, they often find themselves giving advice in gardening techniques to the Housing Authority maintenance staff. Generally, maintenance people are hired with little prior experience in horticulture.

Philadelphia Green was asked to step in to help fill this void. Staff members Juanita Wooten, Barbara Olejnik, Jeff Myers, Deborah Hall, Janet Carter and Sydney Richardson set up a number of sessions to train maintenance workers in Tool Use & Maintenance, Pruning, Weed I.D, Pesticide Handling, Lawn Rejuvenation, and Erosion Control. Each topic is offered twice, and about 20 people have attended each session so far.

Maintenance Supervisors and Housing Project Managers are sent copies of what the attendees have learned, in hope that the newly-acquired skills will be utilized.

Erecting an arbor at Champlostare Nicky Williams, Daisy Mae Hill, Joyce Richardson, Deborah Hall and Sydney Richardson.

Champlost Update

by Juanita Wooten

Is there life after a Dedication? **Champlost Homes**, which had its Dedication in June of 1988, is trying very hard to prove that a greening project can stay green on its own.

Early in its history as a Philadelphia Green project, Champlost set up the internal structure needed to keep things going. **Daisy Mae Hill** and **Joyce Richardson**, the tenant coordinators, work with a core group of about 20 contact people throughout the development. These contacts work with their individual sites, and a few even travel from site to site to help out when needed.

This flexible model for organization is very similar to the kind needed for a tenant group to manage its own Development. So it's no surprise that Champlost is one of the two public housing projects in Philadelphia chosen for Tenant Management.

West Phila Landscape & Greening Project

Aspen Village Kids

by Susan Ross

The children from **Aspen Village, 700 N. 49th Street**, recently became involved in learning how to plant. They learned which plants and veggies were different and which required individual care. **Tito** and **Tony** are two of the enthusiastic gardeners. They have a playground on the Folsom Street side which was covered with Alanthus trees and debris. So PHILADELPHIA GREEN coordinator **Denise Jefferson,** along with **Susan Ross** and **Melinda Johnson**, gave a pruning workshop, bringing out the maintenance crew to get involved. It was a lot of hard work, but you should see it now. There will be swings for the children and a whole new outlook for them, which started out with some little green plants.

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Thanks to **Tito Nazario, Tony Frazier, James Rice, Soud Wooden, Melissa Mayberry, Dave, Sylvia Bell** and everyone else who helped.

*In **Spruce Hill,** work continues in the Blockscape Program. In this drawing, the west end of **4600 Spruce** would become a "gateway" into the neighborhood through the planting of street trees, small flowering trees, and shrubs.*

Aspen Farms News

by Melinda Johnson

Aspen Farms is having a Garden Party!

Gardeners at **Aspen Farms**, 49th & Aspen, have decided that they would like to get to know the other gardeners in their area, especially the new ones. (They'd also like to check out the competition for the City Gardens Contest.) And what better way to meet people than to invite them to a party.

Ms. Rebecca Melvin will be organizing the event, and she and garden coordinator **Hayward Ford** are very excited to be playing hosts in their beautiful garden, which has a lot to show off--vegetables, flowers, a butterfly garden, rose arbors, raised beds, concrete planters with shrubs, and street trees.

Mill Creek Paradise

by Melinda Johnson

Mill Creek Council Center has turned its desert into a jungle paradise!

The Center, at 4917 Aspen, now has a new look. Young adults from the Mill Creek summer program and young people from Aspen Village got together with the PG West Philadelphia team to design and plant around the building.

The area, which used to resemble a barren desert, now bhas been planted with cleome, cosmos, scented geraniums, cactus, and assorted flower seeds.

The **West Philadelphia Landscape Plan and Greening Project** is a cooperative effort of the West Philadelphia Partnership, Philadelphia Green, and the University of Pennsylvania. Primary Funding is from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Gardening Tips from All Over

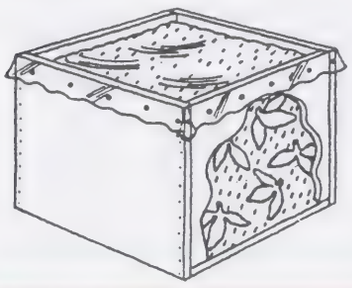
Summer Bulbs

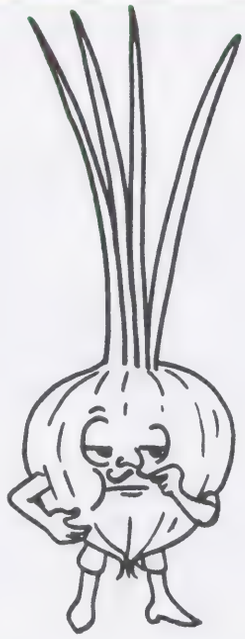
Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent hem from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.





When Are Onions Done?

When onion tops turn brown and fall over, the bulbs are almost ready to be picked. If one or two plants are still standing, knocking over the tops will hurry things along. But don't try to get the jump on the harvest by knocking over tops if most of the plants are still green. These are more likely to rot since they contain more moisture.

Let onions sit in the garden until the tops are completely whithered and brown, then collect and hang them up in an airy place. Try storing them in old panty hose if you don't want to braid them together.

Onions grown from bulbs in the spring should be used up first, since they often won't keep the whole winter. For **keepers**, grow them from **seed**, being sure to buy seed from varieties labled "good for storage."

Greeting from the Tourist

The PG News has received the following letter from Gina Burnett, who visited many of PG's nearly 1000 projects this summer.

Dear Community Gardeners,

Thank you so much for making my day as I toured your greening projects this summer. It was wonderful to share your enthusiasm and the beauty you have created in our city!

Gina

What to Plant in September

FROM SEED OR BULBS

lettuce
daffodils & narcissus
radishes
tulips

DIVIDE

daylilies
peonies
phlox

Harvest Show News

Be a part of the excitement that is generated each September at the Harvest Show. Experience the thrill of winning a ribbon by entering the best from your garden. Celebrate at the Harvest Party with good music, good food and good friends.

Feeling timid about entering something from your garden? Overcome your inhibitions and show off your gardening skills.

To enter, fill out and mail the registration card inside the Harvest Show booklet. We'll send you entry tags and information about registration.

Here are some hints to keep in mind...your blue ribbon vegetables are just waiting to go to the show!

Remember to:

- select vegetables of uniform size and good eating quality. The Harvest Show booklet will tell you how many to enter. Always bring extras in case some get damaged in transit. Select ones that have no spots or sign of disease.
- gather entries carefully. Be especially gentle with soft-skinned vegetables. Wash off loose soil. Some gardeners even wrap them in paper towels while transporting them.
- if you grow more than one variety of flowers and/or vegetables, consider entering BOUNTY BY THE BASKET or FLORAL BOUNTY. Be sure to bring a list of your specimens on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper.
- if canning is your specialty, your entries must be heat sealed. Paraffin sealing is acceptable only for jellies. Remember to keep a ring on each jar.

Our younger gardeners can enter a special section made just for them. If you know a youngster who has grown a sunflower, tended vegetables or planted annuals, encourage them to enter the Show.

WHAT'S WHAT -- Clearing up some confusion

Now's the time to take advantage of good supplies of seasonal fruits. If you preserve summer fruits or berries, be sure to bring them to the Harvest Show.

JAM is made from crushed fruit.

JELLY is made from fruit juice.

PRESERVES are made with whole or large pieces of fruit.

CONSERVE is made with two or more fruits as well as raisins and/or nuts.

MARMALADE is made with small pieces of fruit suspended in clear jelly and usually contains citrus.

Some classes in the Harvest Show call for a stem or a spray. Here's how to tell the difference between them.

If the Harvest Show booklet indicates that a **SPRAY** is required, then you will need to bring a main stem with side branches and flowers on all sides.
Examples: *dwarf marigolds, petunias and mums.*

A **STEM** is the main branch of a plant with leaves and a flower at the end.
Examples: *zinnia, cosmos, dahlia, non-dwarf marigold.*

Cultivating Kids

Start the kids now on their own dish garden or terrarium to enter in the **Harvest Show**'s junior horticultural classes, **September 23 and 24**.

The rules are as follows:

DISH GARDEN . An arrangement of two or more plants in a shallow container, no larger than 12" in diameter. Small figures may be used.

TERRARIUM. Must have a cover and contain two or more growing plants. Not to exceed 18" in any direction

Most important in either of these projects is having the kids pick plants that can be grown together - needing the same soil, water, temperature and light conditions. The size of the plants should be in proportion to the size of the container.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS FOR KIDS TO ENTER

1. **PUMPKIN PALS**. Uncarved, uncut, painted pumpkin. Fresh and/or dried plant material may be used to embellish features.

2. **CRAFTY CREATURES**. A creature made from seeds, nuts, pods, cones, dried flowers and/or dried materials. No fresh material, paint, ribbon or candy permitted.

3. **MASK**. A mask of your favorite villain. Character must be named. Made from paper or plastic. Features embellished by dried plant material. Mask not to exceed 18" in any direction. Must be equipped to be hung.

4. **TOM SAWYER**. A picture or plaque depicting a scene from Tom Sawyer, made from dried and/or pressed plant material. Not to exceed 12" x 14". Must be equipped to be hung.

5. **LUNCH TIME**. An arrangement of dried and/or natural materials created in a container used at lunch time. Decorative items permitted. No silk or plastic flowers. No food items permitted. Not to exceed 12" x 12"

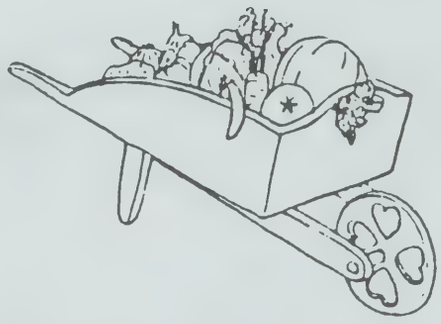
6. **GONE FISHING**. An arrangement of fresh and/or dried material incorporating a piece of fishing equipment. No hooks or fish permitted. Not to exceed 12" x 12".

7. **ROCKY ROAD**. An arrangement created from a collection of roadside flowers, fruits and/or weeds. Plant material can be fresh or dried. No potted plants permitted. Ar rangement made in a recycled container. Not to exceed 12" x 12". One of each variety permitted. Attractively displayed in a basket supplied by the exhibitor.

YOUTH HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

8. **CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT.** Container not to exceed 8". One plant to a container.

9. **VEGETABLES.** Grown by exhibitor. To be displayed on paper plates supplied by committee.
   - A. Tomatoes, three specimens
   - B. Squash, three specimens
   - C. Cucumbers, three specimens
   - D. Peppers, three specimens
   - E. Eggplant, one specimen
   - F. Beans, twelve specimens
   - G. Beets, three speciments
   - H. Carrots, three specimens
   - I. Gourds, three specimens
   - J. Pumpkin, one of any variety
   - L. Melon, one of any variety
   - M. Any vegetable other than classes A through L, three specimens
   - N. Herbs, three specimens in water
   - O. Herb, one plant grown in a container
   - P. COLLECTION, five or more different vegetables, fruits and/or herbs. Herbs should be in water-filled containers supplied by committee. More than one of each variety permitted. Attractively displayed in a basket supplied by the exhibitor.



10. **SUNFLOWER.** One head, grown by exhibitor.

11. **DISH GARDEN.**

12. **TERRARIUM.**

13. **ANNUALS.** A collection of annuals. Five specimens, one or more kinds. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

14. **MARIGOLDS.** A collection of marigolds. Five specimens, one or more varieties. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

15. **CONTAINER GROWN.**
   - a. Vegetables
   - b. Annuals
   - c. Fruits
   - d. Herbs
   - e. Any other

16. **VINEGAR.** An herb vinegar to be judged for visual effect.

17. **PRESERVED PRODUCT.** One canned product. Judged for visual effect. *All canned products must be heat sealed as appropriate in a hot water or pressure canner. Parafin wax is only permitted for jellies.*

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Planting Bulbs

Flowers grown from bulbs reward us with a splash of spring color almost before anything else happens in the garden. They can be grown in very small places and with very little care

For bulbs to bloom in the spring, they must be planted in the previous fall. This allows time for roots to form while the weather is still mild in the fall and early winter. Bulbs can be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen.

SOIL Most bulbs are left in the ground to bloom for many years without any attention, so what you do to the soil now is the most important part of planting bulbs. Dig in plenty of natural fertilizers like bone meal, wood ashes, well-rotted manure, leaf mold, and compost.

LAY OUT all the bulbs on top of the soil before planting, whether you're planting lots of them or only a few. This will give you an idea of how big an area to prepare for the amount you have.

DIG OUT THE SOIL to the necessary depth, and mix in plenty of bone meal and compost and whatever else you are adding to the soil to condition it. Carefully set the bulbs POINT SIDE UP at the bottom of the hole. Then fill the hole with the enriched soil, adding the smaller bulbs at the correct soil depth.

HOW DEEP? The first rule is to plant bulbs at least three times as deep as they are wide. This means that larger bulbs like daffodils and tulips are planted with the base of the bulb at six inches deep. Smaller bulbs like crocuses need only be three inches deep.

HOW CLOSE? Plant tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths about three inches apart, and crocuses a little closer. Plant in groups of three or more of a kind or color.

REMEMBER Any work you do this fall will be paid back a hundredfold next spring, when you're suddenly greeted with that welcome splash of color at the end of a dreary winter.

Edited by Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No.8 October 1989

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Azalea Garden

by Kathryn Newland

The Azalea Garden along Kelly Drive to the west of the Philadelphia Museum of Art is the focus of a major restoration project. PHS's Center City Green Program, in cooperation with the Fairmount Park Commission, is sponsoring this project.

Existing shrubs have been pruned and beds full of weeds have been cleaned out. Hundreds of new plants are being planted including azaleas, magnolias, chionanthus, hydrangea and even some shade trees. A brick terrace, stone sitting walls and a pergola are being built as a grand entrance and gathering place, as well as a backdrop for wedding and graduation photographs.

Friends of the Azalea Garden, chaired by **Howard and D. J. Brosius** is a group being developed to help maintain the "new" Azalea Garden. Group members will plant perennials and bulbs, weed and prune, lead tours for local school groups or out-of-town visitors, and contribute funds to hire a maintenance crew to handle routine duties and specialized services.

What a great start!

Spruce Hill News

by Janet Carter

Transition to Independent Living, a residence for handicapped adults, recently added a little color to the outside of their center at **46th & Spruce**. Windowboxes now break up the harsh lines of the building, formerly a supermarket.

TIL got involved with PG through the efforts of the **Spruce Hill Garden Club.** Outgoing president **Joe Moloznik** and incoming president **Mary deJong** recommended that the group become part of the West Philadelphia Blockscape Program, which includes the 4500 and 4600 blocks of Spruce Street.

PG staff met with manager **Paul Chapman** and group motivator **Gail Sycamore** to discuss how to go about it. Since most residents are in wheelchairs, the windowboxes had to be attached directly to the walls at a reachable height, instead of hung from the windows.

Participants were instructed in the use of the eggbeater drill, cordless screwdriver and, of course, the hammer drill. They also learned the finer points of mixing soil, pruning back summer annuals before planting, feeding and watering the plants and sitting back to enjoy the scenery.

Three seasoned gardeners from the Strawberry Mansion Jr. Garden Club, 2nd prize winners in the City Gardens Contest. For a list of winners, turn to the insert page.

WANTED:

Gardens (or gardeners)
that have been
working with
Philadelphia Green
for 10 or more years.

If you **ARE** one
or
you **KNOW OF**
one,

Call Flossie at
625-8280

Behind the Scenes-- Bettie McGill

by Eve Miller

Her official title is Receptionist/Hospitality Supervisor. But this hardly describes what she does. Her voice is the first contact many people have with Philadelphia Green. **Bettie McGill** is the name that goes with this familiar voice.

She has a difficult task. In only a few minutes time she tells callers the basic facts about our organization. Often several calls light up the switchboard at one time. People expect to contact the staff in the office, and are disappointed to learn that they are out working in the field. To them, Bettie offers this reassurance, "As much as possible, we do try very hard to get the messages to the staff."

Some of the questions which Bettie often hears are: How can I become involved with Philadelphia Green? How soon can I get started on a garden? Bettie understands their urgency because, "I was on the other side of that call once.." She was a block captain for about 8 years in the West Shore Neighborhood. With her neighbors, she worked hard to start garden blocks and clean up vacant lots.

We at Philadelphia Green appreciate the knowledge and persistence that Bettie McGill brings to her job.

Get the Jump on Spring

Lots of flowers can be planted in the fall, especially anything that reseeds, like cleome, marigolds, 4 o'clocks, and snow on the mountain. Plant in a cold frame or protected spot now, and transplant out into the garden in the spring. Or sow the seeds directly in the bed where they'll grow in the spring, after you've prepared the soil.

ADD ORGANIC MATTER like manure or compost to the soil before the ground freezes. This is also a good time to take a soil test and add lime if needed. Manure and lime will have the whole winter to break down and be absorbed into the soil.

Harvest Show Hot Pepper Corn Bread

from the kitchen of Jesse Carter

2 eggs
1 cup corn meal
1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup shortening (butter or margarine)
2 hot peppers (green or yellow)
1/4 red sweet pepper

Pre-heat oven to 350°. Oil a 5x9 loaf pan and set aside. Sift and mix together dry ingredients, except for sugar, and set aside. Blend sugar, eggs and shortening until fluffy; add dry ingredients and milk, and stir until well blended. Pour immediately into loaf pan and place in the center of the oven. Bake for one hour or until it is golden brown and pulls away from the sides of the pan. (Adjust cooking time to fit the hotness of your own oven.)

And the 1989 Winners are...!!!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN GARDEN BLOCKS

3rd
2000 Block of Etting Street
Ellen Johnson and neighbors

1400 Block of N. 30th Street
Lula Aldridge and neighbors

4000 Block of Reno Street
Orline Bridges and neighbors

3700 Block of N. 15th Street
Minnie Radcliffe & neigbors

2nd
2700 Block of N. 16th Street
Katie Dowdell & neighbors

2100 Block of Wharton Street
Estelle Gelzer & neighbors

2600 Block of Sears Street
Marie Mitchell & neigbors

1700 Block of N. Newkirk Street
Daisy Singletary & neighbors

Unit Block of N. Felton Street
Alvena McDaniels & neighbors

1st
1600 Block of W. Edgley Street
Mary Atkerson & neighbors

1600 Block of Patton Street
Eunice Smith/Essie Duncan
& neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION - LARGE

3rd
15th & Grays Ferry Avenue
Mattie Robbins & neighbors

18th & Glenwood Avenue
James Taylor & neighbors

2nd
41st & Parkside Avenue
Garden Club of Parkside

25th & Dickinson
Garden of Eatin'
Alta Felton & neighbors

1st
Aspen Farms
Hayward Ford & neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION - MID-SIZE

3rd
913 N. American Street
Diane Brumble & neighbors

1259 N. Mascher Street
Nelida Pena & neighbors

46th & Wyalusing & Merion
Mack McCarthney/Elnora Jones & neighbors

2nd
2003-05 Palethorpe & Norris Street
Rev. Rysard Hermanowicz & neighbors

1734 Felton Street
Anna Clayton & neighbors

Sun Circle Garden
17th & Westmoreland Avenue
Mildred Peterkin & neighbors

1st
4115-19 Pennsgrove Street
Madeline Brundage & neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION - SMALL

3rd
1426-30 S. Taylor Street
Alta Felton & neighbors

"Special People in the Northeast"
David Miazio & Friends

2404-10 N. Newkirk Street
Anna Roundtree & neighbors

2nd
2145 N. 2nd Street
Iris Brown & neighbors

3222 W. Turner Street
John & Florie Dotson & neighbors

4641 Westminster Avenue
Jean Reed & neighbors

1st
6118 Callowhill Street
Lillie Singleton & neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - LARGE

3rd 2400 Marston Street
Lorraine Harris & neighbors

2nd Friends of Kahn Park
C. Moore & neighbors

1st 44th & Locust Streets
Adam Levine & neighbors

3901 N. 13th Street
Mary Walke & neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - MID-SIZE

3rd 16th & Lehigh Avenue
Mary Lassiter & neighbors

1330 S. 18th Street
Leroy Howell & neighbors

2nd 852-54 Uber Street
Calvin Nelson & neighbors

860-62 N. Uber Street
Mary Smith & neighbors

1st 1700-02 N. Newkirk Street
Daisy Singletary & neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - SMALL

3rd 1800 Reed Street
Algie Streat & neighbors

2915 W. Sedgley Street
Dorothy Maddrick & neighbors

2300 W. Sergeant Street
Gwen Pittman & neighbors

2nd 2236 Wilder Street
Shirley Gay & neighbors

1st 314 Emily Street
Alice Murray/Catherine Warnke

1ST YEAR PHILADELPHIA GREEN GARDENS

3rd Van Pelt & Susquehanna Streets
Nicki Payne & neighbors

2nd 49th & Florence
Maureen Tate & neighbors

1st 1764-68 N. 28th Street
Virginia Dowdy & Dorothy Hinton
& neighbors

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - LARGE

3rd Pearl & Conestoga Street
Blanche Epps & neighbors

Church Road & Baynton Street
Chris Nicholson & neighbors

4900 Brown Street
Lillie Cunningham & neighbors

2nd 1401-19 S. 25th Street
Anna Davis & neighbors

28th & Cambria Streets
Annie Dee Hyman & neighbors

1st 1500 N. 58th Street
James Newman & neighbors

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - MID-SIZE

3rd 3730 Mellon Street
Audrey Davis & neighbors

714 N. 18th Street
Muriel Ellis & neighbors

2nd 44th & Parrish Streets
Jessie Carter & neighbors

15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors

1st 2600 N. 6th Street
Adariana & Marina La Pinia

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - SMALL

3rd 2301-03 N. 21st Street
Rachel Bagby & neighbors

6th & Cambridge Streets
Bob Ingram & neighbors

20th & Susquehanna Avenue
Alice Woods & neighbors

2nd 1204-13 S. 26th Street
Cynthia Anderson & neighbors

2313-15 N. 20th Street
Mary Higgs & neighbors

1st 46th & Linmore Street
Lucille Washington & neighbors

"GREENEST BLOCK IN TOWN"

3rd 800 Block of N. 6th Street
Odessa Lee Jackson & neighbors

5952-72 N. 20th Street
Viola Wade & neighbors

2610 A thru F Norris Street
Betty Johnson & neighbors

5960-70 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell & neighbors

2nd 5958-70 Champlost Street
Daisy Mae Hill

2200 Block N. Woodstock Street
Helen Clowney & neighbors

6100 Washington Avenue
Laura Sims & neighbors

1st 1700 W. Edgley Street
Dollie Pinckney & neighbors

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S GARDENS

3rd "Little People's Garden"
Melinda Johnson & Kids

"Children's Project Rainbow"
Sister Maureen O'Hara & Kids

ISI Caring Center
Kathy Batchelder & Kids

2nd "Strawberry Mansion
Jr Garden Club"
Mary Lena Brown & Kids

The "Busy Bee" Youth Garden
Hilda Armstrong & Kids

"Seedy Acre Kids"
Sally McCabe & Kids

"The Wind in the Willow"
Mary Kots & Kids

Junior Garden of Gethsemane
Blanche Epps & Grandchildren

1st "Garden of Life"
Willie Mae Clark,
Helen Clowney & Kids

On the Vine

Community Gardens: *Bounty and Beauty*

is the theme for the

1989 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER

Join fellow community gardeners from all across the city on

Friday, November 18, 1989

at the

Sheraton — Society Hill

to celebrate another successful year of gardening

GUEST SPEAKER — Elaine Tate
Food columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer

The Benny Fields Band is back by popular demand

Tickets are $18.50
Watch for invitations in the mail!

Be a
TOP TICKET SELLER
and win prizes for your garden.

If you need flyers with
Recognition Dinner information
to distribute to
friends and neighbors,
call Flossie at 625-8280

October 1989 Calendar of Events

October 8-13			**American Community Gardening Association**
			10th Annual Conference International House, 34th & Chestnut
			For an informational brochure, call Philadelphia Green
October 13			**Food Safety Conference**
October 16			WORLD FOOD DAY
October 19	Thursday	6:30-8:30	**Planting Bulbs** 47th & Cedar
			Sponsored by Cedar Point Park
October 20	Friday	3:00-5:00	Non-profit Computer Users Group **Sharing Public-Domain Software**
			PG office, 325 Chestnut Street, Suite 800
October 21	Saturday	10-3	**BULB BONANZA '89** SEPTA Depot, 40th & Baltimore
			Help the Spruce Hill folks reclaim the area by planting thousands of spring-flowering bulbs. Bring home a few to plant in your own
October 31			FIRST FROST
November 18	Friday	6:00-?	**1989 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER**
			Society Hill Sheraton, 2nd & Walnut

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Even though it's hard to believe that summer is over, the first frost is due **this month,** around the 31st. But when the growing season ends, there are still jobs to finish before you can retire into hibernation. Here are some ideas borrowed from our friends at the Chicago Botanic Garden, who seem to have many of the same problems we do.

The main reason for this last work day is to clear the garden of plant debris where insects and diseases can spend their winter vacations. Also, spring is a very busy time for gardeners, and cleanup now saves work and time in the spring. Tools and hoses last longer with proper cleaning, sharpening, repair and storage. It's wonderful to wake up to a clean garden ready for planting in the spring. So put your garden to sleep for the winter and enjoy the benefits from it next spring!

Garden Clean-up Ideas:

- pull up dead plant material
- rake leaves
- bag up any diseased plants and put them out for the trash
- add clean plant material to the compost pile
- remove stakes and trellises and bundle them together for storage.
- store tools, stakes, and hoses
- add manure and compost to the garden plot
- plant spring flowering bulbs
- plant garlic cloves for next summer's use
- clean up house plants and bring them in from the garden. Pot them up in larger pots if needed to accomodate their summer growth. DON'T feed them at this time, though, since lower light levels will slow down their growth.
- Take cuttings from geraniums & mums and bring them inside to root in sand or potting soil mix. These will be a cheap source of plants for next spring.

If you're interested in extending the growing season, why not build a coldframe? For a FREE handout on building coldframes, call Penn State's Gardenphone at 560-4167. For a FREE handout on what to grow and how, call Sally or Eve at PG, 625-8280.

Edited by Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
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Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 11, No. 9 November 1989

PG SALUTES YOUTH AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Susquehanna Kids

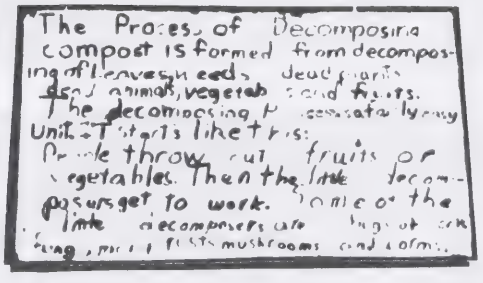
Barbara Wagner

Summertime is funtime, and children's gardening programs in Susquehanna kept a lot of kids busy. 40 children participated in the **Busy Bees** (located at 22nd & Dauphin) and the **Garden of Life** (2333 N. 20th St.) Under the firm but gentle guidance of **Hilda Armstrong** (Busy Bees) and **Willie Mae Clark** and **Helen Clowney** (Garden of Life,) the children has an opportunity to organize themselves, design their gardens, learn basics of garden management, and best of all, harvest their bounty. And what a bounty it was! City Gardens Contest and Harvest Show Judges agreed. Both gardens won top prizes in both events.

Fun activities helped to ease the burden of those daily gardening chores. Weekly classes led by PG staff and Charles Young of Urban Gardening covered plant anatomy, soil and composting. In the composting classes, children discovered the wonderful world of worms and assisted in the construction of a worm box.

On August 16th, 44 children and six adults from Susquehanna traveled to Highland Orchards in West Chester. At this Pick-Your-Own heaven, everyone had a wonderful time harvesting corn and peaches, and discovering the delights of a day in the country.

Childrens' environmental education through horticultural activities is a top priority in the Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne. Several more groups are now forming.


The Proces of Decomposing
compost is formed from decompos-
ing of leaves, seeds, dead parts
dead animals, vegetab and fruits.
The decomposing p
Unit. It starts like this:
People throw out fruits or
vegetables. Then the little decom-
posers get to work. Some of the
little decomposers are
fungi, mold, plants mushrooms and worms.

A sign hanging in a children's garden where worm farming is done. Look inside your newsletter for more pictures of children's activities. Photographers are Gina Burnett and Barbara Wagner.

New Lotscapes

Mark Teller

Philadelphia Green is playing a major role in the Mayor's Neighborhood Clean-Up Campaign. Under the management of the City's Department of Licenses and Inspections, several organizations, including the Urban Coalition, the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network, and PG are helping abandoned lots in North and West Philadelphia undergo radical changes.

The Campaign began this summer when 800 lots were cleaned to eliminate dumping problems and other eyesores. To date 70 of these sites have been selected as part of the Lot Beautification Program. The Anti-Graffiti Network is providing and installing chain link fences to enclose the properties.

Philadelphia Green, working under special contract with the Philadelphia Youth Service Corps is designing and planting simple lot gardens. We provide the technical assistance to groups so they can maintain them.

The Corps' objectives are to give young adults age 18-22 an opportunity to develop the personal, professional, and educational skills necessary to compete in today's job market while they serve the City of Philadelphia and other organizations in a variety of work projects.

The crew that will help us reach our goal of 90 completed lots by June 30, 1990 include crew chief **Melanie Douty** and also include **Kurtis Clark, Ervin Caldwell, Richard Edwards, Melvin Dorsey, Victor Garcia, Gus Gramley, Israel Medina,** and **Steve McFadden**.

With their help, we will be able to make a difference in the neighborhood by landscaping lots for community enjoyment.

Cultivating Kids

Here's what the City Gardens Contest Judges had to say about the winning Childrens' Gardens!

2nd Prize Winners

STRAWBERRY MANSION JR. GARDEN CLUB
Mary Lena Brown & kids

LOTS OF GREEN HEALTHY PLANTS WATERED BY HAND-CARRIED MILKJUGS. NAMES OF CHILDREN ON THE FENCE PROVIDE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY PRIDE. THE SCARECROW IN THE CORNER PRE-SIDES OVER ALL.

THE BUSY BEE YOUTH GARDEN
Hilda Armstrong & kids

THIS WELL-PLANNED GARDEN WITH ITS MURAL BACKGROUND IS A SANCTUARY AND ACTIVITY CENTER FOR 18 NEIGHBORHOOD "BUSY BEES". LUSCIOUS LOOKING VEGGIES ARE GROWN IN BARRELS.

SEEDY ACRE KIDS
Sally McCabe & kids

ALEX AND JUSTIN WERE OUR GUIDES THROUGH THIS TRUE NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN. TWELVE CHILDREN HAVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS AND ALL ENJOY THE COMMUNAL BERRY PATCH AND "ORPHAN GARDEN" WHERE ALL MANNER OF ONE OF-A-KIND GREEN THINGS CO-EXIST HAPPILY.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
Mary Kots & kids

WHAT INGENUITY! MARY KOTS, A TEACHER, HAS THE CHILDREN USE THIS GARDEN AS A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT. LET US KNOW IF THE MIRACLE GROW PLANTS DO BETTER THAN THE OTHERS.

JUNIOR GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
Blanche Epps & grandchildren

A TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF VEGETATION! VEGETABLES, TREES, BERRIES, SUGAR CANE, PEANUTS, GRASSES, EVEN A WATER GARDEN. VERY IMPRESSIVE.

1ST Prize Winner

GARDEN OF LIFE
Willie Mae Clark, Helen Clowney & kids

IN ONE YEAR, TWO ENTHUSIASTIC WOMEN HAVE GUIDED TWENTY LUCKY NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS IN THE PLANNING, PLANTING AND HARVESTING OF A BOUNTIFUL CROP. CONGRATULATIONS! THIS IS OUR CHOICE FOR FIRST PRIZE.

Community Gardens: *Bounty and Beauty*

is the theme for the

1989 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION DINNER

Join fellow community gardeners from all across the city on
Friday, November 17, 1989
at the
Sheraton — Society Hill
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GUEST SPEAKER — Elaine Tait
Food columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer

The Benny Fields Band is back by popular demand

Tickets are $18.50
If you have not received your invitation in the mail, please call our office at 625-8280

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

By the time you read this column, we've probably already had our FIRST FROST here in Philadelphia, at least on the outskirts. And although most people take this as a signal to call it quits in the garden, there is no rest for the weary. Until the ground is frozen solid, your garden can always use some more tender loving care, and each minute spent this fall is worth hours of reward in the spring.

Most greens, like collards, mustard, lettuce, turnips, spinach, etc. can often be kept going until the end of the year, especially if your garden is in a protected area, surrounded by heated buildings or walls that hold the sun's heat well after sunset. Or you can always provide some home-made protection.

Cold frames are just the security many plants need to survive early winter cold snaps. A well built, insulated frame can keep some hardy plants alive and growing all the way into spring.

A simple frame can be constructed from scrap lumber and old window sashes. Build a bottomless and topless box at least 8-12" deep, and sink it partway into the soil around your low-growing greens. Use the windowsash as a lid. If possible, slant the whole arrangement toward the south, to get more sunlight.

Remove or c lid during sunny days, sin sides can bake in the 100° temperatures that occur without ventilation. Keep plants watered but not wet.

Cold frames are also an excellent place to store **bulbs for forcing** during their cold treatment period. Make sure you buy large bulbs marked "for forcing" or "exhibition size." Pot them up in potting soil with a little bone meal, and sink them into the soil in the frame. Water them well, then cover the pots with at least 8-12" of leaves or woodchips. Put the lid back on the frame and go away until February. The bulbs need 12-15 weeks of cold to establish their root systems properly and begin to grow. At that point you can remove a few pots every week and start them growing indoors for that early spring pick-me-up we all so badly need by then. We'll remind you in the spring , when it's time to get the bulb rolling. **SPECIAL NOTE:** paperwhite narcissus do not need a cold treatment before being forced. They are not hardy, and a frost will kill them.

NOW ABOUT THOSE GREEN TOMATOES. Take them off the plants, and save only the perfect ones. Wash them with water with a few drops of Chlorine bleach, and put them somewhere in the dark, where the temperature holds steady at about 40° (an unheated cellar or attic is fine.) Some people prefer to wrap each one in tissue paper or newsprint, and others add a ripe apple to the batch to promote ripening. Check them every week or so and remove any that have begun to rot, since these are a bad influence on the others.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Tunnel Vision

More than 75 bulb enthusiasts came out to plant bulbs at the Second Annual **Spruce Hill Bulb Bonanza at 40th & Baltimore** in West Phila. Five teams of volunteers planted 10,000 tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs at the site where SEPTA trolleys come up out of the underground tunnel.

Because of the cooperation of SEPTA, gardeners arrived to find the beds already tilled and composted, and had only to dig small holes, mix in bone meal, and pop the bulbs into the soft ground. And because they all worked so diligently, each volunteer got to take home a grab bag of bulbs to plant in their own yard or garden.

Special thanks go out to community organizer **Joe Moloznik**, team captain coordinator **Gerri Spilka**, the **Girl Scouts** and **Boy Scouts** of West Phila, the people who provided hot chocolate, coffee, cider and cookies to participants, and to the many other community members who worked to make this public area beautiful for the whole neighborhood.

New Blockscape

Residents of **Woodland Terrace** recently completed the first Spruce Hill Blockscape, sponsored by the West Philadelphia Project. Led by block organizer **Lauren Leatherbarrow**, the block trimmed their oversized tree pits with brick, and planted them with naturalizing daffodils, species tulips, miniature daffodils, and miniature iris, then planted a ground cover of ajuga donated by residents of the block.

The original plans for the blockscape, drawn up by the University of Penn Landscape Architecture Department, were adapted by the community and evolved several times. The final plans called for pruning of existing large trees, planting of five new trees, enlarging all the tree pits to 3'x6', trimming pits with brick, and planting the pits with low maintenance bulbs and perennials.

Special thanks go to former PG staff member **Hal Rosner** who did the pit expansion during the monsoon season.

Plans for next year include brick raised planters at the four corner properties, as an entrance and exit to the block.

A sketch of the Woodland Terrace Blockscape, showing the expanded tree pits planted with perennials and trimmed with bricks. Larger pits give tree roots more air and water, and give older trees a new lease on life.

Xmas Trees

With that time of year almost here, many people will soon be buying Xmas trees. But how do you know if you're getting a good one? Here are a few easy rules to follow:

1) Grab hold of some of the needles and pull hard. If they stay on the branch, chances are good that the tree is fresh.

2) Try the "bounce" test. Take the tree by the trunk and bounce the base of the tree once on the ground--is the ground covered with needles? If it is, this isn't the tree for you.

Once you've picked the perfect tree for your family, here's how to keep it that way:

1) Keep it as cool as possible until you get it in the house, preferably outside.

2) As soon as you get it in the house, make sure it's always in a couple of inches of water. Cut an inch off the base of the trunk so that a fresh section of stem is sitting in the water.

3) A simple formula for keeping the tree fresh can be made from household items: add 1/4 cup Clorox, a tablespoon of liquid plant fertilizer, and 1/2 cup corn syrup (Karo) to a gallon of warm water. Use this to water the tree as the level in the dish or tree stand drops. The corn syrup and fertilizer feed the tree, and the Clorox keeps bacteria or germs from growing in the water.

4) Don't keep the tree in the house for more than ten days. After that, they dry out no matter what you feed them, and can become a fire hazard.

After the holidays are over, save your tree for use in the garden. Needles make a great mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons. Save the branches to protect early spring crops from hungry birds. If you know someone with a chipper, the whole thing could be turned into woodchips to mulch the garden. The City Streets Department usually has a special collection around the holidays specifically for Xmas trees, which are then chipped at the Recycling Center.

Sweepstakes Winners

Plenty of our gardeners came out for the Harvest Show to brag about their garden bounty, and many of them went home with ribbons. Prizes for flowers and vegetables entered under the name of a community garden were tallied, and those gardens collecting the most total points were awarded an additional Sweepstakes Award.

For **New Gardens**, the winner was the **Garden of Life,** 2333-39 N. 20th St., Willa Mae Clark, Helen Clowney and Kids.

For Small Gardens:

•1st **1712-14 N. 18th**, Estella Williams

•2nd **Chrysolite Gardens**, 20 N. 57th St., Edna Jones

•3rd **Bartram's Children's Garden**, 5404 Gibson St., Carol Simons

•HM **20th & Diamond**, Willie Mae Bullock

•HM **Chalmers Park**, 28th & Cambria, Annie Dee Hyman

For Medium Gardens:

•1st **Brickyard Farms**, 4200 Sansom, Frank Kieser

•2nd **Schuylkill River Park**, 25th & Spruce, Susan Hale

•3rd **Seedy Acres**, 900 N. Leithgow, Sally McCabe & Kids

•HM **2600 N. 6th**, Adariano LaPinia

•HM **Fruitberry & Rose Garden**, 1820 W. Cambria, Bob & Mia Clement

For Large Gardens:

•1st **Garden of Gethsemane**, Pearl & Conestoga, Blanche Epps

•2nd **Southwark/Queen Village**, 3rd & Christian, Edith Bradley

•3rd **Aspen Farms**, 49th &Aspen, Hayward Ford & Rebecca Melvin

•HM **Ren-Par Park**, 802-20 N. 47th, Jessie Carter

•HM **Garden of Eatin'**, 25th & Dickinson, Alta Felton

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From all of us at PHILADELPHIA GREEN!

Look inside this special Holiday Section for crafts to "cultivate" with your kids this holiday season.

Cultivating Kids

Bird Feeders

Winter is a good time to get to know your neighbors, especially the feathered ones. Even here in the center of the city you can find a wide variety of different birds that haven't flown south. Sparrows, house finches, purple finches, slate-colored juncos, cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, titmice, and red-headed woodpeckers provide a colorful entertainment that's often more fun than what's on TV.

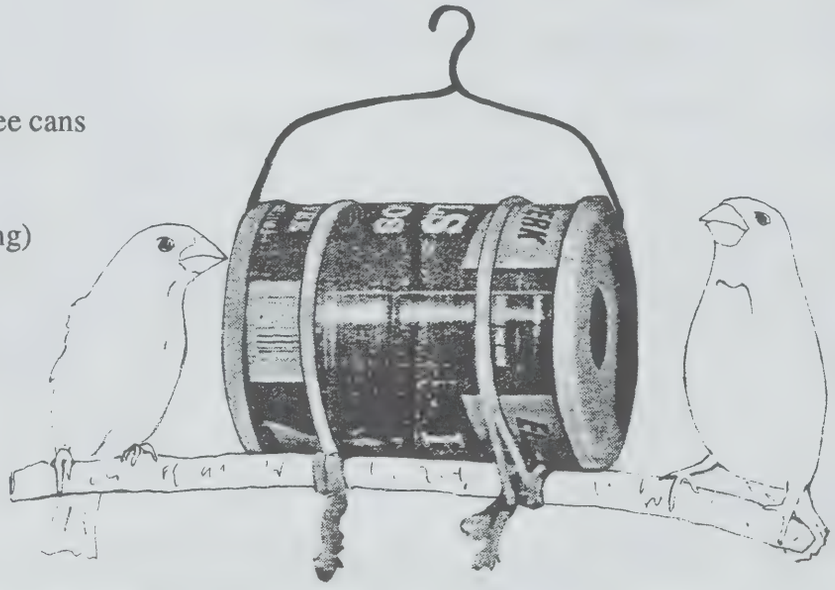
WILD BIRD FOOD can be found at any grocery store, and the bigger bags are generally the better buy. Keep unused food in a plastic or metal bucket with a lid so you don't attract mice and moths for a free lunch. Once the birds get used to your feeder being there (they'll usually find it within a day or two,) they'll put it on their regular schedule for visiting each day. This means you'll have to be very faithful about feeding every day, or they'll take you off their social list.

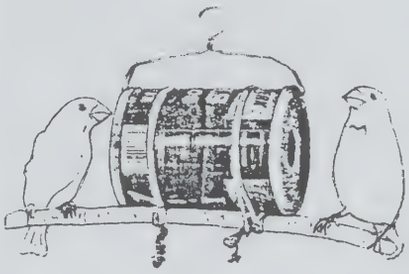
Pay attention to the way birds behave around the feeder — it will start to remind you of the way some people act. Different types of birds will rarely eat at the same time. At certain times of the day, sparrows will swarm all over the feeder while the finches wait, then the finches will throw the sparrows out and start eating furiously. Then it's the sparrows again. Then the finches. In the meantime, starlings, pigeons and mourning doves will take turns on the ground below the feeder, eating the choice morsels that the smaller birds have thrown out in their frenzy. Then a sudden noise will frighten everyone away in an instant. Minutes later they'll all be back as though nothing ever happened.

Here's an easy design to make your own feeder for guaranteed entertainment all winter.

What you need:

an empty coffee can
two plastic lids from coffee cans
a wire coathanger
wire cutters
a long twig (about 12" long)
heavy string
a sharp knife

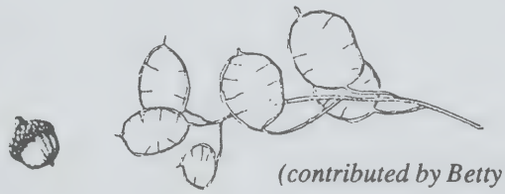




KIDS SHOULD DO THIS ONLY WITH AN ADULT AROUND. Getting an adult involved is also handy for hanging the feeder high enough to keep cats away from the birds.

- Remove both ends from the coffee can.
- Take the plastic lids and draw a circle in the middle of each. Smaller holes (one and one-quarter inches) are for the smaller birds; larger holes (two inches) allow the bigger birds to get their heads in.
- Cut the long middle piece off the wire coathanger, leaving 2 inches on each end. Push these ends into the plastic ends to hang the feeder.
- Tie the twig to the long end of the can so the birds can have a place to stand while they eat.
- Fill the feeder each day by taking one end off and pouring in the seed. Don't fill it so much that the seeds fall out the feeding holes.

Hang the feeder somewhere that cats won't be able to bother the birds. At our house we lower it out the third floor window on a string onto the clothesline. This puts it high enough for the birds to find it, and hangs it outside the window where we can watch it while we eat around our own people feeder in the kitchen.



Holiday Ornaments

(contributed by Betty Tyler)

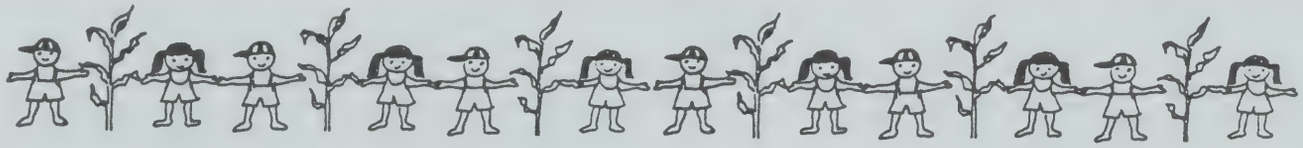
Nature offers plenty of free materials to use in making holiday decorations. Leaves, dried weeds, pine cones and evergreen branches are everywhere if you know where to look for them. Dried gourds, dried beans, dried corn, seed pods and branches of herbs that were brought in from the garden after cleanup can also be used. Even leftover seed packs can provide a little extra color.

All you need is a little imagination, and kids certainly have enough of that! Add a few things like cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, ribbon and paper clips to nature's bounty, and put your youngsters to work.

Cartoon characters are an easy place to start. Cut out the shapes from paper or cardboard and glue on beans and seeds for decoration. Then move on to imaginary beasts with pinecone bodies, walnut heads, and beans for eyes.

Use pieces of ribbon to attach paper clip hangers. Hang your creations on the tree, on doors, or on windows. Or, decorate your holiday wreath with homegrown ornaments.

Brighten up your house with them throughout the year, not just during the holidays.



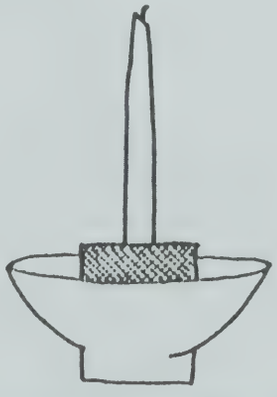
Making a Christmas Candle Centerpiece.

Reprinted from the Chicago Botanic Garden's
Urban Horticulture Newsletter.

Materials you will need:

12" tapered candle
oasis
pinecones
florist wire
design dish to hold arrangement
ribbon
wire cutters
pruners
greens — juniper, pine, and fir are best.

- Cut a cube of oasis that will fit into the design dish and stick up about 2" above the rim.
- Pour warm water onto the oasis until it is saturated.
- Stand the candle up in the middle of the oasis.
- Attach pieces of the florist wire to the pine cones, between the bottom two rows of scales. Set these aside.
- Cut the greens into pieces about 10" long and remove the bottom two inches of greenery from the stem.
- Make a "skirt" for the arrangement by sticking the greens up into the oasis just above the rim of the container. If your centerpiece is for a long table, make the greens pieces longer in one direction than in the other.
- Continue to cut the greens into pieces and insert them into the oasis. Start by covering the sides first, working your way to the top until the entire oasis is covered with greens.
- Add a bow, the pine cones, and anything else that suits your fancy. Pieces of holly with red berries, little ornaments and xmas balls can all be attached to the arrangement with wire to add that extra special touch.



PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Upcoming Events
December, January, February

December	12	Full Moon
	21	First day of WINTER
	22	PG OFFICE CLOSED Hanukkah starts at sunset
	25	PG OFFICE CLOSED Xmas
	26	Kwanzaa starts
	29	PG OFFICE CLOSED
January	1	PG OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!
	13	**Starting a Garden** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
	20	**Ethnic Variations in Gardening** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
	27	**Heritage Seeds** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
February	3	**Plant Propagation** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
	10	**Container Gardening** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
	17	**Gardening for Nutrition** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street
	24	**Cooking for Kids** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

WINTERIZING YOUR PLANTS

One of the most important ways to prepare all woody plants, especially evergreens, for winter is to make sure the soil has a reserve supply of moisture before the ground freezes. Winter winds whip the moisture out of shrubs and trees, causing them to "freeze dry." This drying, more than the cold temperatures, is what damages plants in the winter.

- Plants should be **thoroughly watered** before the first hard freeze.
- **A layer of mulch** (4 - 6") will keep the ground from freezing too deep and protect the roots. Constant freezing and thawing will make plant roots heave up out of the soil, and mulch insulates against drastic temperature changes.

- Plants may be wrapped with burlap (loosely) to allow air movement. **No plastic.** Plastic gets too hot under bright winter sun and can cause burning of tender branches.
- Move **plants in containers** close to the house to provide some protection from the wind.
- Whenever the ground is not completely frozen, you **can water** your plants well to replenish water lost from drying winds.
- Clear heavy snow off shrubs **gently.** Weight from wet snow can cause branches to break off, but rough handling can cause even more damage.
- De-icing salts can damage plant roots, causing brown leaves. Wash or sweep the salt away from trees and containers.

Wintertime Reading

Looking for good wintertime reading with lots of luscious pictures?

Many seed and plant catalogs are available for just the cost of sending a postcard. Find out what varieties are new to the garden world, and which of the old standby's have stood the test of time. There's also lots of information in them about planning, planting, and caring for your garden.

Call Penn State's GARDENPHONE 560-4167 for a free copy of **Mail Order Seed Houses**. While you're at it, also ask for a list of their **Winter Workshop** topics.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Editor: Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

TREE NEWS

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
Special Issue Spring 1989
A project of the
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

One-Hundred Million Trees

J. Blaine Bonham, Director, Philadelphia Green

Throughout the city, hundreds of London Plane trees and other street tree species are dying. Planted many decades ago, these trees have been weakened by old age and the stresses of city living.

Concern for the current plight of city trees prompted the William Penn Foundation to provide funding for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program over the past several years. With this funding Philadelphia Green has planted 86 blocks with trees, and conducted workshops on the value and care of trees in the city.

These trees have made an enormous difference to the neighborhoods in which they've been planted, making them more livable. The Society and tree recipients are grateful to the William Penn Foundation for their support.

However, it just is not enough!

A *Philadelphia Inquirer* editorial on December 26, 1988 underscored the essential importance of trees in offsetting the greenhouse effect. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen in the process of their daily living. Trees make a difference; more trees will not only provide us with shade and beauty, but will also assimilate carbon dioxide and produce the life-giving oxygen our planet needs to survive.

The American Forestry Association is urging that one hundred million trees be planted in American cities by 1992. Philadelphians need to plant their share.

In a time of budget constraints, the city government can't be expected to do it alone. The business community and private citizens must make an investment for their own good. Tree planting must be seen as a priority to improve, indeed protect, the quality of life in Philadelphia.

We present this special issue of the Philadelphia Green News as our contribution to the cause of educating the community about trees. We invite you to share Philadelphia Green's vision for a greener, more liveable city.

Fairmount Park: Who Does What?

Despite severe funding cuts and hiring freezes, the Fairmount Park Commission continues to providevaluable administrative and management services to the street trees and park land under its jurisdiction.

A Pennsylvania state code places the ownership, care and overall responsibility of a street tree upon the the property owner. However, the City's Fairmount Park still has legal control over what can be done to it. "A street tree belongs to the homeowner on whose property the tree sits," says Patricia Crossan, an Urban Forestry Division Park Manager.

Maintenance tasks such as pruning and spraying are costs the homeowner must incur. Before such things are done, however, they must secure a work permit from Fairmount Park.

Applying for a permit works as a safeguard against hiring substandard contractors. Filing for a permit also helps Fairmount Park keep their files up to date. Fairmount Park maintains a list of qualified contractors who have submitted certificates of insurance.

If a tree is to be removed, Fairmount Park must first inspect it to confirm the necessity of the work. "Fairmount Park has the jurisdictional control to approve a request for a removal," said Crossan, "but the owner must be the one to get it cut down."

"Fairmount Park's ability to remove trees is limited to dead and dangerous trees, and emergency storm work," adds Crossan. "This is due to severe staff and equipment shortages." The time frame for a city removal by Fairmount Park can be anywhere from six months to four years, depending on which of the five maintenance districts the tree is in.

Whether a property owner who petitions the city to plant a street tree in front of their property receives one depends on current funding levels for tree planting.

An urban tree lover has other options, however. A property owner can then either retain a commercial tree contractor or take on a "do-it-yourself" project, after securing a permit from Fairmount Park. The following guidelines can assist in the process.

HOW TO GET YOUR OWN TREE

1. Be the property owner of the house or land where the future tree will sit.
2. Sign a planting permission slip available from your Fairmount Park district arborist and send it to Memorial Hall, Phila, PA 19131. Call 686-0016 for the list of arborists.
3. The street tree inspector from Fairmount Park will inspect your property and determine if a tree can go in front of your property. Then and only then can you plant a tree yourself or have your name added to the city's future planting lists.
4. If you want the city to plant your tree, contact your City Councilperson to find out if funding has been allocated for your councilmanic district.
5. Many homeowners have planted their own street tree. For more information, contact PHILADELPHIA GREEN.
6. You can hire a qualified tree contractor to plant a tree in front of your house. This generally costs between $300 and $400. The contractor will acquire a city permit for this work. Your signature is required to validate the official permit. A list of approved street tree contractors can be obtained by calling the Fairmount Park Commission's Street Tree Division at 686-0016. To qualify, a contractor must furnish an insurance certificate with adequate coverage as well as pass inspection by the Street Tree office.

The Do-It-Yourself Approach

Here are the basic steps involved in planting your own street tree. There's a lot of work involved, but you'll be able to save yourself between $200-$300 in labor costs. For more detailed instructions, contact Philadelphia Green for the pamphlet *So You Want to Plant a Street Tree.*

1. Own the property where the tree is to be planted.
2. File for a permit with the Fairmount Park Commission.
3. Have site inspected by FPC arborist.
4. If approved, have utilities marked on the sidewalk. BEFORE YOU DIG, CALL 1-800-242-1776
5. Get a healthy, vigorous tree. (2-2 1/2 " diameter)
6. Cut a 3'x3' square in the sidewalk. You can rent a "cut-off"saw to do the job.
7. Break up & remove concrete.
8. Dig out the pit about 3' deep.
9. Set tree to proper depth.
10. Backfill with original soil.
11. Water generously.
12. Mulch with woodchips.
13. Stake securely.
14. Wrap & wire tree.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777 (215) 625-8250

Dear Neighbors:

Philadelphia Green is committed to improving the quality of life in Philadelphia through community greening. A large part of that process is the planting of street trees.

This special edition of the PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS is intended to inform people of the essential importance of trees, and to inspire them to do their share towards our national goal: One Hundred Million Trees by 1992!

April 28th is the day Pennsylvanians celebrate Arbor Day. We think this is a good time to focus our attention and energy on trees; planting them, taking care of them, appreciating them. As we improve their lives, they improve ours.

If you'd like more copies of this newsletter call or write:

TREE NEWS
Philadelphia Green
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
625-8280

Each of us must do our share to improve the quality of life in our city.

Sincerely,

Blaine Bonham

Blaine Bonham, Director
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Finding A Qualified Contractor

Those valuable trees planted on your street or in your garden deserve the very best care. Hiring an unquali fied person to prune your trees could have disastrous results. In a matter of moments, graceful branches and lush foliage can be reduced to a stubby, disfigured mess.

Here are a few tips to help you find a qualified tree care professional:

1. Use the yellow pages. Check to see who has memberships in the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the National Arborist Association (NAA), or the Certified Arborists of Pennsylvania and Delaware(CAPD). A qualified contractor should have memberships in at least one of these organizations.
2. Check with other block groups or gardeners for recommendations.
3. Ask a prospective tree care firm for references.
4. Check to see that a contractor is insured. Ask for a certificate of insurance.
5. Comparison shop. Get a second or third bid from other contractors. Each bid should be submitted in contract form with the proposed work clearly described. Ask questions prior to accepting a proposal..
6. Any tree care firm that advertises "topping" (cutting off the top of a tree)is not worth a call. Put a big red "X" through their ad.

You can find a better price if you have the work done during the winter. The contractor might also reduce a price quote if brush disposal is left to the property owner or block organization.

Quality tree work is never cheap. Avoid settling for bargains. Remember that quality work raises the value of a tree.

NUMBERS TO CALL

Tree Request	686-0016
Pruning (see below)*	
*Approved Contractors	686-0016
Damaged Trees	686-0016
Permit Request	686-0016
Utilities (CATHY)	1-800-242-1776
Tree Care Info (PHS Hotline)	922-8043
Nurseries (see suburban PA & NJ Yellow Pages)	

PHILADELPHIA GREEN'S TOP TEN STREET TREES

Recommended and worth looking for, based on resistance to drought, heat, pollution and soil compaction.

Chinese Elm- Yellow to reddish fall coloring. Resistant to Dutch Elm disease. Handsome mottled bark.

Crabapple-Small tree, good for tight locations and under wires. Fragrant, pinkish flowers in spring. Tree is ornamental and produces small, insignificant fruit.

European Hornbeam- Unusually problem free small tree. Many fine, small branches. Bark on older wood is beautifully fluted.

Ginkgo- Excellent, extremely adaptable street tree. Virtually pest free. Interesting fan-shaped leaves turn brilliant yellow in fall. One of the oldest species on earth, dating back more than 150 million years.

Hawthorne- Good low-growing tree. Thorny branches. Attractive red fruit in winter, blooms white or red in spring. Bronze-red to purplish-red leaves in fall.

Honeylocust- Generally insect and disease free. Tolerant of pollution. Small fragrant flowers in summer. Small leaves turn yellow in fall.

Red Oak- An oak with few problems. Able to withstand pollution. Dark green leaves turn red in fall.

Sweetgum- Great fall color- yellow, purple and red tones. Interesting branch form at maturity.

Sophora- A tree for wide streets due to the spreading, broad crown when mature. Creamy-green flowers in late summer. Tolerant of pollution, heat and drought.

Zelkova- Good elm substitute because of its resistance to Dutch Elm disease. Dark green leaves turn rusty red in fall.

Recipe For Healthy Trees

ADD WATER

There are no hard and fast rules with watering street trees. One has to develop a sense of when watering is needed. We offer guidelines to use while developing your watering instincts.

•TIME OF YEAR? - Water from the time buds begin to swell (mid-March) until the ground freezes (mid-December).

•HOW MUCH? - "Rule of thumb" says eight to ten gallons each watering. But if it's mid-August, and you've been out of town for ten days, the parched ground may take fifteen gallons. There's also no need to put down ten gallons if it rained all night two days ago. Cut back a little.

•WHAT TIME OF DAY? The best time to water is early morning. Dusk or evening is all right too, but could encourage fungal activities.

•WHAT ABOUT TECHNIQUE? Water slowly and lovingly. If you're using a hose, a gentle trickle assures the least run-off and soil disturbance. Water deeply. If you find that after a while water is running off the soil surface, stop right away as a saturation point has been reached. A gentle trickle for about 20 to 30 minutes should be sufficient.

ADD MULCH

Regular mulching encourages a healthy, vigorous tree. Mulching tree pits helps reduce the stress trees experience growing in cramped sidewalk locations. Mulching keeps weed growth down, moisture in and soil from compacting.

Mulch can be a choice of materials used to cover the soil, providing a barrier to weeds, an enrichment to the soil, and a way to retain moisture.

Add the compost or manure in the fall, when the leaves have dropped and the tree is going dormant. This will allow the nutrients to seep slowly into the soil during the winter months. This slow decomposition will prevent any burning of roots from too many strong nutrients at once. Work a one- to two-inch layer of compost or manure lightly into the top layer of soil. Then give the tree a thorough watering with eight to ten gallons of water. Once the soil has been enriched, the covering material can be added as a blanket to prevent weeds from growing in the pit and to keep moisture from evaporating out of the soil.

Since your tree will benefit from the reduced weed competition and added moisture, a covering of mulch should be maintained throughout the growing season.

CAUTION: The Tree Surgeon General warns that leaving wires on a newly planted tree for longer than a one-year period may result in undue injury or even death.

Tree stakes and guy wires play an important role in the transplanting process, because they allow a tree to reestablish a root system. Without them, winds and kids would constantly jostle the ball of soil, hampering root growth. But since a newly-planted tree grows vigorously, its trunk expands fairly quickly.

A pitiful sight in the urban forest is a street tree girdling itself. Rubber hose and wire that's used to guy and support trees during the year after they're first planted is usually the culprit.

If tree owners elect to keep the wire and stake system in the ground for an extra year, they must regularly check to see that the wire is not too snug on the trunk, and be ready to loosen it if it is.

Nancy McClernan

BASIC TREE CARE SCHEDULE

AGE OF TREE	WATER	FEEDING	PRUNING	PIT CARE	OTHER
NEWLY PLANTED	5-8 gallons per week until ground freezes. Resume at thaw.	granular feed yearly after first year -- 1 standard-sized coffee can Tree-tone in late fall or early spring.	remove limbs up to 6 feet. prune out broken and crossing branches.	put up tree guards anytime. mulch with compost & top dress with chips. plant shallow-rooted annuals (marigolds, vinca, begonia, petunias, snapdragons & portulaca.)	wrap trees, stake & wire to prevent damage. check wires often to prevent choking tree.
AFTER 2nd YEAR	5 gallons/week. same as above	same as above	prune out dead wood. train branches away from utilities and porches.	same as above ok to plant perennials. loosen up soil as needed. clear weeds and trash.	keep wrap on til after 2nd year. remove wires & stakes to prevent choking.
ADOLES-CENT	water as needed during dry spells.	none needed if mulched with compost each year.	prune out dead wood.	same as above. replace tree guards as needed.	enjoy your shade.
OLDER	no watering needed.	same as above	prune out dead wood. prune away from roofs & utilities (should be done by pro-fessional.)	same as above	same as above

What a difference eight years can make! Planted in the spring of 1980, these street trees are a thriving addition to the 2200 block of Sedgley Street in North Philadelphia. Note the amount of shade on the sidewalk. Photos: Hal Rosner

ROOTS: What's Going on Down There?

How do Philadelphia's street trees manage to grow in those little three feet by three feet squares in the sidewalk? Dr. Gary Watson, a scientist at Chicago's Morton Arboretum who specializes in the study of tree roots, has some answers. Much of his research has involved looking at how trees grow under sidewalks.

"Air, water, and nutrients are the basic needs for any street trees," says Watson, "roots grow where the conditions are most favorable."

All of us know that trees need water. We hear the urgent message each summer: "Don't forget to water." But tree roots need air too. Tree roots go to great lengths, so to speak, in order to find a steady balance of both water and air.

Street trees may have as little as one square yard of space for water, nutrients, and air to enter into the tree's root zone. If supplies are slim, tree roots will take it upon themselves to seek out more abundant supplies.

"It's difficult to say where roots go," says Watson, "you'd be surprised where they wind up." The roots of the tree planted in front of your house could easily be two doors down getting an underground drink of water.

Almost any type of soil can be found below the sidewalks and cobblestones of Philadelphia. Heavy clay and cinders are most common, although a mixture of gravel and stones or "rubble" is also found.

"Rubble can be a positive thing," Watson noted. "In fact, trees seem to favor rubble because it means that the soil will be aerated, and able to supply air to the root system."

Though it might seem odd, sidewalks contribute to tree health. Sidewalks work like a mulch, protecting the soil from compaction and keeping it cooler during those hot summer months. Unfortunately, sidewalks also limit the amount of air available to roots. For that reason, aeration is important. Using a hand cultivator and working the soil to a depth of about four inches will keep the soil from becoming compacted.

City residents often voice concern about the potential havoc that tree roots can wreak on water and sewer lines. Dr. Watson's believes that tree roots seek out the older weakened lines with cracks in them. If trees are receiving adequate water , it's less likely that they will seek out other sources.

Guarding Your Investment

Take a minute and look at a street tree in your neighbor hood, or one you might pass on your way to work. Look at the trunk, from the bottom up to where the branches start. Do you see wounds or scars? Are there places where the bark has been scraped away? Are there any ugly gashes?

Now look at the tree pit. Do you see rich brown forest soil crawling with life? Most likely you see compacted soil, supporting a few tough weeds.

Street trees are vulnerable to all kinds of "seek and destroy" projectiles, namely car doors, car bumpers, or complete cars. And then there are the feet: human feet and dog feet. And then the inevitable bicycles and trash bags. Working solo or collectively, these seemingly harmless everyday players in the urban landscape are potential threats to the street-side tree.

Wounding and soil compaction make life very difficult for a tree. Both situations reduce vigor, and may ultimately contribute to a tree's demise.

What can you do? Ladies and gentlemen, may we present the tree guard. Be it simple or complex, plain or ornate, functional or artsy, a good tree guard's claim to fame is protection . It should clearly define the tree pit area, and be able to preserve, protect and defend the tree it serves.

To the passive or aggressive it says: **DON'T TREAD ON ME.**

Building A Tree Guard

Your choice of materials includes bricks, cinder blocks, iron pipe, wood of various width, depth and length, and chicken wire.

Keep a few things in mind as you construct your tree guard:

- Secure the structure to the ground; never fasten it to the tree itself.
- Try to use materials that won't deflect rain drops.
- Avoid construction materials that are pointy or sharp.
- Make sure the finished structure extends only to the perimeter of the pit.
- Be sure that if you make a "well" or frame around the pit, don't fill it with soil. This will smother the tree roots, which need air.

R_x For Older Trees

The caretaker's goal for "mature" city trees, that have reached an age of twenty years or more, should be to maintain a high level of vigor. Watering, fertilizing, and pruning are three key practices for keeping a tree healthy. *(See chart page 5.)*

In street locations, older urban trees benefit tremendously from regular careful pruning. This would include branches that have become a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or have grown toward buildings or into utility lines. Limiting a tree's size makes it easier to water or fertilize older trees.

As a tree ages, it normally "sheds" twigs and branches which are no longer useful in food production. However, when left untended, the dead branch may become an entry point for decay.

Careful pruning of dead and dying branches encourages tree bark to close over a cut more efficiently. A pruned tree is also safer to walk and park under, as dead branches are usually the ones that come crashing down in storms or high winds.

Older trees tend to have less vigor than younger ones. For this reason, they have a tougher time responding to radical pruning that removes too much live wood. Prune live branches on mature trees only when necessary.

DON'T TREAD ON ME

How Much is a Tree Worth?

When a property owner or civic group plants and cares for trees, they're adding monetary value to their homes and neighborhoods.

So says an organization called the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, whose membership is made up of representatives from the landscaping, nursery, and tree care profession. An appraisal guide published by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) states "Landscape plants enhance property values and increase city assets."

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) now recognizes that trees have value in their own right, thanks to the efforts of these organizations. The loss or extensive damage to a street tree can be an IRS deduction, or an insurance or legal claim.

Tree appraisers use a complicated mathematical formula that considers many different factors including type of tree, size, age, and health. Qualified tree appraisers will charge for their services. Look in the yellow pages for tree care firms with memberships in the ISA or National Arborist Association.

How much is a tree worth? This handsome horse chestnut stood majestically on Cherry Street near 18th for many years, providing shade and beauty to the block.
Photo credit Library Company

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org
Postage Paid
Philadelphia
Permit # 2666

Editors: Hal Rosner & Sally McCabe
Cover photo: Library Company

FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM
THE WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
NO TREES WERE DESTROYED

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

February 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NORTHERN LIBERTIES PLANTS TREES

With help from **Philadelphia Green** and the **Neighborhood Beautification Committee,** residents planted 63 street trees this fall in what is now becomming known as the **Northern Liberties National Forest.**

The Committee, headed by **Steve Malarskey** of the **900 block of North 5th Street,** solicited applications, arranged for Fairmount Park inspection and permits, and raised funds for the project. Philadelphia Green provided a crew to cut sidewalks, remove the cement and move the heavy trees. Participants dug their own 3'x3'x3' pits, backfilled with soil after planting, mulched , pruned staked and wired their trees.

The trees were donated by Philadelphia Green. Bulbs planted in the pits came from Burpee Seeds. Lunch and entertainment for the workers was provided by neighborhood volunteers.

The annual project has so far planted 100 trees around the neighborhood, in community gardens and playgrounds as well as along the street. Says NLNA President **Vickie Gleim**, "These street trees have made a major difference in the way our neighborhhood looks. We're grateful to all the volunteers who made this possible, and especially to Philadelphia Green!"

Tree Champions

Philadelphia Green recently received a major grant from The William Penn Foundation to begin a new tree planting program. With this grant, PG will plant 3000 trees throughout the city in the next four years. The emphasis will be on plantings in North Philadelphia, in an effort to complement the Mayor's North Philadelphia Plan.

PG staff **Jonathon Frank** and **Susan Phillips** will be in charge of the project. With the landscape crew, they will plant trees at gateways and along commercial strips, as well as on residential streets. Philadelphia Green will be working with the **City's Planning Commission** and the **Office of Housing and Community Development** to develop planting strategies for the city.

The program also calls for educational workshops on care of street trees with neighborhood groups throughout the city.

Susan Phillips recently joined the PG staff as Tree Coordinator to organize and implement this project. Sue has organized community greening and townwatch activities in her Germantown neighborhood.

Dining and Dancing at the 1989 Community Recognition Dinner (more inside)

PHILADELPHIA GREEN is a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106 625-8280

Conference Thanks

THE BEET GOES ON!

Thanks to the many volunteers and the many hundreds of hours they contributed, the American Community Gardening Association's Tenth Annual Conference was a smashing success. Most participants went away feeling that it was the best conference they had ever attended.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN Advisory Board members and volunteers contributed in many ways: some were speakers at the various session; some brought food to the social functions; some provided housing for out-of-towners. Still more brought flower arrangements to decorate the conference site, provided tours (organized as well as informal,) and took people under their wings wherever it was needed. Said Bill Urban, visiting the conference from Bridgeport, Connecticut, and staying at Rena Ennis' house: "Never has a group of people made me feel more at home. Philadelphia staff and gardeners really know what they're doing!"

Since this was a conference of community gardeners from all over the country (even from Hawaii!), we know that each and every thing that volunteers did was fully appreciated!

ACGA President Tessa Huxley had this to say: "For all of us, the

ACGA Annual Conference is a time of challenge, renewal and hope. Our friends at Philadelphia green and the Penn State Urban Gardening Program put together a fabulous conference in Philadelphia. For all of us who were able to attend, I want to thank our hosts one more time for the great job!"

American Community Gardening Association
10th Annual Conference
October 8-13th, 1989 Philadelphia, PA

Upcoming Events February & March 1990

February	14	Valentine's Day Give flowers to that special someone!
March	11 - 18	**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW** Visit the Lecture & Demonstration Series in the 3rd floor auditorium. (Schedule will be published in the next PG News.)
	20	First Day of Spring
	23	**PHILADELPHIA GREEN's Birthday**

Purely For Pleasure -- Gardens for the Senses

FLOWER SHOW DATES AND INFO

Put these dates on your calendar right away! The **Philadelphia Flower Show** will be held at the Civic Center from Sunday, March 11 through Sunday, March 18. Tickets at the door are $9.50 for adults, $4.75 for children under 12. Advance Sale Tickets are $8.75 for adults, $4.75 for children. For information about ordering your tickets, call 625-8250. Deadline for ordering is February 16, 1990.

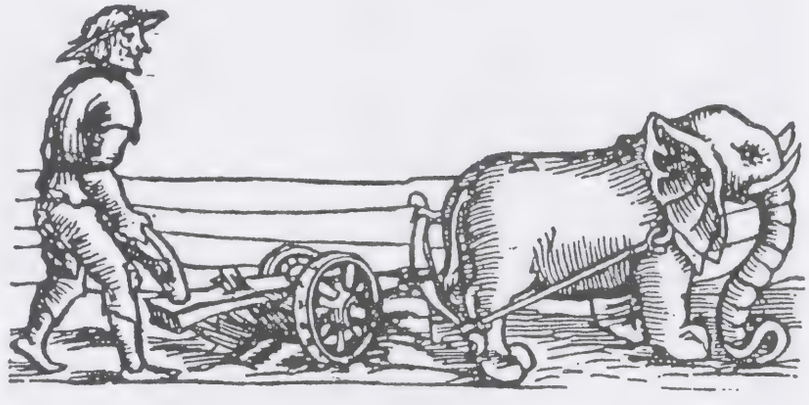
The PHILADELPHIA GREEN exhibit will be titled "Garden Pleasures, Community Treasures."

STARTING SEEDS INDOORS

February crops to start indoors:

Feb 1-15
- onions
- leeks
- cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, collards)
- celery

Feb 15-28
- all the annuals (including marigold, petunia, and zinnia)
- head lettuce
- chives
- chinese cabbage



Preparing the soil for an early spring planting

Bounty and Beauty

1989
Community Recognition
Dinner

PENN STATE
URBAN GARDENING PROGRAM

1990 Winter Workshop Series

THE VEGETABLE CHRONICLES
a mini series in six parts

Start off the year with our six <u>new</u> workshops. They will be held in our offices on the third floor of 46th and Market Streets on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

January 13, 1990	**Ethnic variations in gardening**
January 20, 1990	**Jeff Ball - Basic Vegetable Gardening**
January 27, 1990	**From Heritage to Hybrid (Heritage seeds and new varieties)**
February 3, 1990	**Propagation**
February 10, 1990	**Container Gardening**
February 17, 1990	**Nutrition**

SATURDAYS
January 13th to February 17th
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
4601 Market Street - 3rd Floor
Philadelphia

For more information:
Penn State Urban Gardening Program
4601 Market Street - Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19139
(215) 560-4167

URBAN GARDENING PROGRAM

FREE

CULTIVATING KIDS

Sneak Previews

Wouldn't it be wonderful to wake up to flowers and growing things in the middle of February? All of us, especially the kids, are getting cabin fever, and we could really use something bright to look at that isn't either Nintendo or the TV.

March and April are much more fun, when trees start to cover themselves with leaves and flowers begin to creep out from under the snow. But February is still cold and dreary, and flowers are nowhere to be found outdoors. And no matter how hard you wish, you can't make spring come any sooner.

Time to show a little force — forcing flowers, that is.

Pussy willows and forsythia (the big drooping bright yellow shrub found in most community gardens in Philadelphia) are the easiest and most common branches to bring indoors and force into bloom. But you can also use branches of apples, peaches, cherries, pears, plums, bridal wreath spirea and maples.

HERE'S HOW

- Pick a day that's above freezing to gather branches, so you don't freeze tender little fingers (yours or the kids').
- Gather from neighborhood yards and gardens. Remember to ask permission before pruning shrubs and trees in community gardens.
- Cut pieces from the ends of limbs, since that's where most of the flower buds are.
- Take pieces that are 1-2 feet long. Longer than that will be clumsy, and too easy to knock over. Shorter is OK, but not as pretty in full bloom.
- Take pieces that are covered with fat buds.
- Bring the branches indoors and soak them in warm water in a bucket or tub. This will "wake up" the buds, making them think that spring has finally arrived.
- After soaking the branches, wrap them in several layers of newspaper, and put the bottom of the stems in a few inches of water.
- Leave the branches in water in a cool room for a week or two, out of direct sun light. After the first week, change the water and check to see if the buds are swel ling. If they are, it's time to bring them out into the light and have the kids arrange them in vases.

Here's an added attraction (no extra cost). Pussy willows root in water, usually within a week. Pot them up as a houseplant that's glossy green all winter, the plant them in the garden in the spring. By next February you'll have more than enough branches to cut and share with every child and adult in the entire neighborhood.

Give flowering branches to teachers and friends as a gift for Valentine's Day. Start some now, and start a new bunch in two weeks. This will give you a few more weeks of indoor bloom while you wait for spring to come.

Enjoy your flowers. And may the FORCE be with you.

DIGGING OUT THE FACTS

Seed Starting Tips

CONTAINERS If it will hold soil, it can be used to start transplants from seeds. Just make sure that it has drainage holes that will allow excess water to run out the bottom. PLEASE NOTE: all these containers should be as clean as possible to avoid disease.

SOIL Think light. A lighter soil is easier to handle, has good drainage, and encourages root growth. The preferred mix is made up of shredded peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. This can be made at home or purchased already mixed.

SEEDS There are more varieties available from seed than there are from transplants at the supermarket or garden center. Take advantage of this. Be sure to read the label and not start too soon.

LIGHT Unless you have wonderful wide windowsills that don't get too cold but do get eight hours of light a day, find some fluorescent light fixtures. Although special plant lights are supposed to be best, regular fluorescent bulb[illegible]dequate for starting seed[illegible]ist the lights every few days so they are no more than an inch or two above the tops of the plants.

PLANT SOME EXTRAS Let your friends know that you are starting your own transplants. This way you'll be able to swap your extras for other varieties they might be starting.

Ordering from Catalogs

SHOP AROUND. Not all catalogs are equal. Compare prices in different catalogs. Some catalogs may have lower prices for some items but higher prices for others. Shop around.

ORDER WITH A FRIEND. Small gardens might not have enough room for a full pack of seeds of each variety. Why not share an order? Bulk orders are usually cheaper, and doing a group order means you can get more different kinds for the same amount of money per person.

NEVER READ A CATALOG ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. The hungrier you are when you see those luscious tomatoes, the more money you're liable to spend!

SAVE YOUR EMPTY SEED PACKETS. These will come in handy next year when you're trying to remember which bean it was that did so well. And remembering the variety names will also be worth extra points when you enter your bounty in the Harvest Show in September.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia,PA
Permit No.2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on recycled paper

February 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 12, No. 1 March 1990

Mysteries of the Flower Show Exhibit Revealed

by Anne Vallery

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Flower Show each year, marveling at the transformation of the Civic Center into a lush 5-acre paradise. But how many of those visitors have any notion of the hours, days, even months of preparation that goes into putting together the various exhibits that make up the Show?

For the last seven years the Philadelphia Green exhibit has represented Community Gardeners and portrayed the contributions they have made toward beautifying the city. Many of those same gardeners use their gardening expertise throughout the year to produce that exhibit.

Work begins with a brainstorming session in June or July. The Flower Show Committee generates ideas from which a plan is developed. Plants are ordered from the growers in September so that they can be forced into bloom and ready for delivery to the Civic Center in time for the Show in early March.

While the plants are happily growing in the greenhouses, printed materials such as brochures and post cards are designed and printed for distribution at the Show . Informational signs for the exhibit are also produced.

In February work begins in earnest. Staff and volunteers paint, sew, hammer and saw, creating the staging for the exhibit; most of this construction is done at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center. The staging is complete by the week before the Show opens, and each prefabricated piece is carefully transported to the Civic Center.

Throughout the week the puzzle pieces are assembled, in preparation for the arrival of the plants. Once they are delivered, usually by Wednesday or Thursday of set-up week, the work crew of committee, volunteers and staff sets about moving soil, planting trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers, and putting together all the fine details that make the exhibit unique. With the last crumb of dust swept up and the last petal watered and dusted, the display is ready for the judges and the public.

During the week of the Show other volunteers staff the exhibit to answer the many questions about the display, the plants used, and community gardening in general. Many new friendships are made, and many new gardeners are recruited for the City Gardens Contest. As one dedicated volunteer recently said: "We're inspired, we're gratified, we're thrilled with the connections we make with individuals, other cities, and even other countries."

By the time the Show closes on Sunday evening, the wrecking crew is standing by with shovels and hammers, and the most incredible pot luck dinner known to mankind. After fortifying themselves with homemade sweet potato pie, herb bread, rummed flan, pesto, fried chicken and greens, they set to work with a vengeance, tearing apart in a few hours what took months to create.

As one dedicated volunteer recently said, "We're inspired, we're gratified, we're thrilled with the connections we make with individuals, other cities, and even other countries."

Many thanks go out to Flower Show Committee members **Rena Ennis, Chair; Blanche Epps, JoAnn Fishburn, Edna Jones, Frank Kieser, Cecilia Yep, Brenda Nealy, James LaRosa,** and **Veronica Whiten**.

Greening Up PHA

Share & Share Again

by Juanita Wooten
& Deborah Hall

Philadelphia Green will once again sponsor Plant Propagation Workshops during the month of March at **Champlost** and **Johnson** where they have been a great success in past years. In addition, residents of **Morton Homes** and **Emlen Arms** will have the chance to participate in these propagation workshops for the first time.

These workshops are open to all residents of the specific PHA communities, including those not part of any ongoing project who just want to learn more about growing plants.

We have been most fortunate to have some very special Flower Show Exhibitor friends who have helped to make these workshops especially meaningful. Our staff has been able to share a variety of plants donated at the close of the Flower Show with a large number of PHA communities. Gardens have been enhanced with recycled Flower Show plants at **Wilson Park, Norris** and **Abbottsford**, as well as Champlost and Johnson. Working with donated herbs, ground covers, trees, shrubs and perennials of both ordinary and unusual varieties, workshop participants are able to multiply the recycled materials for use as replacements or additions to expanded garden areas.

For the past four years, more and more PHA communities have been able to enjoy their own spring flower shows because of other donated materials. Through the generous support of **Burpee Seeds**, Champlost and other PHA sites have become showplaces, from mid-February to early June, filled with thousands of tulips, daffodils and many unusual flowers such as windflowers, crocus, and snowdrops.

Our hats are off to the volunteers who came out late in the season in several communities to plant Burpee-donated bulbs in public areas, long after they had participated in bulb plantings within their own designated sites.

Special Friends

Our warmest thanks to these growers, nurseries, and garden centers who have donated plants and materials in the past year.

County Line Landscape Nursery
Green Lane, PA

Gale Nurseries
Gwynedd, PA

Garden Accents
Concordville, PA

The Gooseberry Bush
Downingtown, PA

Highmeadow Gardens
Media, PA

Daniel G. Kepich & Associates
Holicong, PA

Land Design & Construction
Company/Whitemarsh Nursery
Plymouth, PA

Mansmann/Liskey Landscape
Contractors
Frazer, PA

Meadowbrook Farm
Meadowbrook, PA

Robert W. Montomery Landscape
Nursery
Chester Springs, PA

Primex Garden Center
Glenside, PA

Stoney Bank Nurseries
Glen Mills, PA

J. Franklin Styer Nurseries
Concordville, PA

Waterloo Gardens
Exton, PA

West Phila Landscape & Greening Project

Aspen Farms News

by Denise Jefferson

Here's an update of what's been going on at the garden at **49th & Aspen** since our last report:

In **June** the cyclone fence was finally finished, and **Aspen Farms** hosted a summer maintenance workshop for all the gardeners in the surrounding blocks of the Mill Creek area. The children from **Aspen Village**, the housing project at **4900 Aspen St.** visited the garden and shared conversation about plants—what makes them grow, their energy sources, and their beauty.

In **August** two new planting strips were added, planted and mulched, and a new raised bed was added on the Folsom St. side of the garden.

In **September** Aspen Farms threw a Gala Garden Party, and invited all of the gardens in the surrounding area. Representatives from **Brown Street Farms (4900 Brown St.), Aspen Village Kids, Sundial Garden (4100 Pennsgrove)** and **Parkside Park (41st & Parkside)**, along with Philadelphia Green staff, came out to party and enjoy the plentiful good food.

The Holiday Party in **December** was used as an occasion to recognize community members and others for their help and support throughout the year. Some of those recognized with awards and plaques included **Hayward Ford, Rebecca Melvin, Margaret Williams, Esther Williams, Earline Brunson**, and Philadelphia Green's **Denise Jefferson.**

New Blockscape

Residents of **Woodland Terrace** recently completed the first Spruce Hill Blockscape, sponsored by the West Philadelphia Project. Led by block organizer **Lauren Leatherbarrow**, the block trimmed their oversized tree pits with brick, and planted them with naturalizing daffodils, species tulips, miniature daffodils, and miniature iris, then planted a ground cover of ajuga donated by residents of the block.

The original plans for the blockscape, drawn up by the University of Pennsylvania Landscape Architecture Department, were adapted by the community and evolved several times. The final plans called for pruning of existing large trees, planting of five new trees, enlarging all the tree pits to 3'X6', trimming pits with brick, and planting the pits with low maintenance bulbs and perennials.

Tunnel Vision

More than 75 bulb enthusiasts came out to plant bulbs at the Second Annual **Spruce Hill Bulb Bonanza** at **40th & Baltimore** in West Phila. In cooperation with SEPTA, five teams of volunteers planted 10,000 tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs at the site where SEPTA trolleys come up out of the underground tunnel.

Special thanks go out to community organizer **Joe Moloznik**, team captain coordinator **Gerri Spilka**, the **Girl Scouts** and **Boy Scouts** of West Philadelphia, the people who provided hot chocolate, coffee, cider and cookies to participants, and to the many other community members who worked to make this public area beautiful for the whole neighborhood.

Terrarium Workshop

by Mary DeJong, President, Spruce Hill Garden Club

Our workshop at the **Home of the Merciful Savior** on January 13th at **43rd & Baltimore** was a resounding success! Former club president **Joe Moloznik** made a videotape of the caring help of **Boy Scout Troup 96** and the ten **Spruce Hill Garden Club** members who came out to make terrariums with the children with cerebral palsy. We all received more joy than we provided, and the planted bowls are all over HMS for the children to see growing. I must offer high praise to Philadelphia Green staff, for they provided the means for the laughter, the grubby hands and the joy of working with soil and plants.

We hope to return in the spring to work once more on the grounds of the Home , this time planting annuals out of doors with the children.

The **West Philadelphia Landscape Plan and Greening Project** is a cooperative effort of the West Philadelphia Partnership, Philadelphia Green, and the University of Pennsylvania

Gardening Tips from All Over

Planting Seeds

SPRING IS SPRUNG, so get your tools out of storage, waterproof your boots, and clean the bags of seed packets out of the back porch.
WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

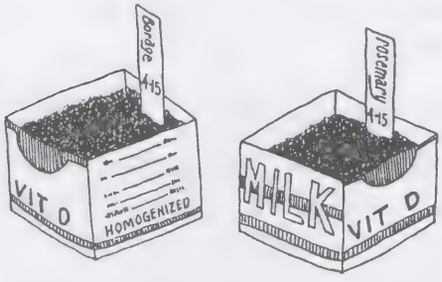
Early to late March:

carrots
beets
leeks
lettuce
onion sets
peas
radishes
spinach
turnips

Put out transplants:

broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
celery
chives
collards
leeks
parsley

Many people have taken to starting their gardens on Good Friday, maybe because it's the first official holiday of the spring season. But Good Friday comes awfully early this year, so don't yield to temptation. IT REALLY IS TOO SOON TO PUT OUT YOUR TOMATOES!!! It's also too soon for beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, and eggplant.



Saving Seeds

Many of us with small gardens really don't have enough room to plant a whole pack of seeds. After all, how many tomato or pepper seedlings can you stuff into a 10'x10' space??

Here are a few suggestions for how to deal with what's left in the pack after the fist spring planting.

- Trade half-full seed packs with other gardeners. Or plan ahead and agree before you buy them to split a particular envelope of seeds.
- Do succession planting. This means to plant a row of something like lettuce now, another in two weeks, another in two weeks, etc., so that you constantly have a new crop coming up while the last one is maturing. This will use up a pack of seeds over the course of the season.
- Save seeds from one year to the next. (See below.)

The best ways to save seeds from one year to the next:

- Keep leftover seeds in an airtight container. Tupperware and coffee cans with lids are ideal.
- **Moisture** is a major waster of seeds. Keep leftovers dry by putting an inch of dessicant in the bottom of your airtight container. (A dessicant is a material that draws moisture out of the air. A high tech example is silica gel, available from most florists and garden centers for drying flowers. Low tech, and cheaper, is powdered milk.)
- The second leading killer of seeds is **heat**. The <u>best</u> temperature for storing seeds is 35-40° F. Conveniently enough, that's the temperature inside your refrigerator. The <u>worst</u> place to keep seeds is in the trunk of your car, where sunny day temperatures can often reach 150° F.
- Mice can also be a problem when storing seeds. Remember that a mouse won't go after something it can't smell, so stick to the airtight containers.
- Weevils are small beetle-like insects with long noses that love to eat the insides out of seeds, especially the larger ones like corn, beans and sunflowers. If you're saving your own seeds, put them in the freezer overnight (no longer, or you'll kill the seeds) in their airtight storage container. The cold temperatures will kill the bugs and their eggs so you need fear no weevil.

Credit artist Cathy Strohm
Wash. State Univ
Coop. Ext.

Testing Seeds

Most of us have packets or half-packets of seeds left over from last year. How can you tell if they're still any good? Here's a simple test:

Spread out about 20 seeds on a moist (not wet) paper towel, and roll it up into the shape of a tube. Place the tube in a plastic bag, and put the bag in a warm (not hot) place out of the sun. Unroll it after two week, and check how many have germinated. If less than 75%, or 14 seeds, have sprouted, your seeds are too old and you probably should buy new ones.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Upcoming Events
March, April & May 1990

March	11-18	**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW**
	17	St. Patrick's Day Traditional Day for planting potatoes, onions and peas
	20	First day of SPRING
	23	PHILADELPHIA GREEN'S Birthday
April	9	Deadline to pre-order for Garden Sale
	9	Passover begins at sunset
	21	**EARTH DAY** 20th Anniversary
	22-28	**EARTH WEEK**
	20	**Pruning Fruit Trees & Bushes & Grape Vines** 11:00 2224 N. Phillip St., Kensington 1:00 41st & Parkside, West Philadelphia
	27	**Arbor Day**
	28	**GARDEN SALE** at Horticulture Center (see attached flyer)
May	10	Herb Sale, Chester County
	12	Spruce Hill May Fair, Clark Park
	15	Junior Flower Show Registration
	17-19	**Junior Flower Show,** First Bank

1990 FLOWER SHOW LECTURES & DEMONSTRATIONS

Lectures and demonstrations on a variety of horticultural subjects will be conducted during the week of the Show. All sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located adjacent to the escalators behind the Trade Booth area.

This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted daily on pillars throughout the Show floor.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

11:30 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** C & J Florist & Greenhouse, Berlin, NJ
1:00 **IKEBANA** Phylis Weeks, Ohara School of Ikebana
2:30 **ORIENTAL FLOWER ARRANGING** Im Wha Kong, Flower Arranger, Korea
4:00 **POOLS AND PONDS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

MONDAY, MARCH 12

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Cook's Florist, Runnemede and Fischer Flowers, Atlantic City
12:30 **IKEBANA** Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Cook's Florist and Fischer Flowers
3:30 **MAKING TERRARIUMS** Denise Jefferson, Philadelphia Green & Rick Draper, Penn State Urban Gardening Program
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Cook's Florist and Fischer Flowers

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

11:00 **DRIED FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** Rita Precopio & Helen Knauff
12:30 **IKEBANA** Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
2:00 **HOUSEPLANT PROPAGATION** Philadelphia Green Satff
3:30 **IKEBANA** Yuri Moriuchi, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
5:00 **IKEBANA** Ann Perry, Ohara School of Ikebana

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside and Newtown Square Flower Shop, Newtown Square
12:30 **IKEBANA** Mariko Ono, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Polites Florists, Drexel Hill
3:30 **FRUIT FOR THE HOME GARDEN** Jeff Jabco, Penn State Extension Service Delaware County
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Polites Florists, Drexel Hill

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Teleflora Florists of the Delaware Valley
12:30 **AFRICAN VIOLETS** Frank Tinari, Sr., Tinari Greenhouses
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Teleflora Florists of the Delaware Valley
3:30 **IKEBANA** Bernice Makin, Ohara School of Ikebana
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Teleflora Florists of the Delaware Valley

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
12:30 **IKEBANA** Ronell Douglass & Marcelle Pick, Ohara School of Ikebana
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
3:30 **ORCHIDS IN THE HOME** Walt Off, Waldor Orchids
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
7:00 **WATER GARDENING CLINIC— POOLS, PONDS & PLANTS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Joseph Genuardi, Florist, Inc., Norristown
12:30 **DAHLIAS** Jack Soret, Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** C & J Florist & Greenhouse, Berlin, NJ
3:30 **IKEBANA** Lorraine Toji & Shigeko Kawano, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** C & J Florist & Greenhouse, Berlin, NJ

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

12:30 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Torresdale Flower Shop, Philadelphia
2:00 **BONSAI** Chase Rosade, Rosade Bonsai

Onion Sets

Onion "sets" are immature onion bulbs. They're grown from seed one year, harvested early by the grower, and stored under controlled conditions until spring. Although they're more expensive than onion seeds, and generally only available in three varieties (red, yellow or white), they're pretty much foolproof, and they grow fast.

When buying loose sets, try to choose smaller bulbs, since these will mature into larger, more solid onions. Bulbs that are dime-sized or larger when planted usually try to go to seed right away. Pull these as scallions and eat them greens and all.

Bulbs Galore

Bulbs are blooming like crazy out there! If you'd like them to continue to do this every year, here are a few reminders:

- The leaves are making food for next year's flowers. Don't cut them off, tie them up, or otherwise disturb them.
- Feel free to cut the flowers. It's better to cut them for bouquets than to pick them, since sometimes people yank a little harder than they meant to, and pull the bulbs up out of the ground.

Take advantage of their blooming to label varieties by color, since no doubt you forgot to do it when you planted last fall. Use plastic tags and laundry marker, and stick labels into the ground far enough to protect the writing from bright sunlight. This way if you want to divide or move them at the proper time in the fall when they're not blooming, you'll know what color or variety they are.

Enjoy the fruits of your labors--a little work in the fall made a lot of beauty this spring!

Collard Greens

Did you grow collards last year? Did you leave them in the ground all winter because you just didn't get around to cleaning up after the hard freeze turned most of your garden to mush?

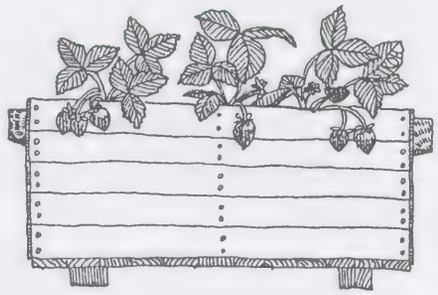
Take heart. In spite of what they looked like all winter, spring will bring a rush of growth to last years collard, broccoli, mustard, and turnip plants. These tender spring shoots are tasty and very nutritious, as well as plentiful.

Many cole crops (cabbage family) are biennial. This means that they don't form their flowers and seeds until the second season. And it's these new flower shoots that start sprouting from old plants around the beginning of March.

Pick shoots every day, since they'll flower and become inedible by the second day. Serve them raw in salads or steamed lightly (until dark green) to preserve those vitamins and minerals that make these early vegetables such a good "spring tonic".

Houseplant Reminder

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro are ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated away.



Flower Show Lectures

Almost all of us have been to the Flower Show, and walked our feet to the bone in the process. Well, here's a chance to sit down and rest those weary dogs, and learn a little horticulture at the same time!

Learn basic flower arranging from Allied Florists, or exotic Oriental arranging from members of the Ikebana Schools. Or see demonstrations on Houseplant Propagation, Growing Orchids at Home, Water Gardening, or African Violets.

Workshops and Demonstrations are held daily at 11AM, 12:30, 2, 3:30, and 5 PM most days, with slightly different times on Sundays. For a complete list, see page 6.

Gardener Wanted!!!

The **Point Breeze Federation** in South Philadelphia is looking to hire someone to do gardening around the neighborhood. The job pays minimum wage for several days work per week, and requires a basic knowledge of gardening. For more information, **contact Mamie Nichols at 334-2858.**

On The Vine

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28 for the PG Spring Sale at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. At this annual event you'll be able to purchase annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs, and garden supplies at discount prices.

You can take advantage of these low prices ONLY IF YOUR GROUP PRE-ORDERS. There will be plants and garden supplies available on sale day, but these will be limited in quantity and not offered at the discount price.

Annuals and vegetables will be sold by the market pack. To insure a good price, we order from several different growers. Because of this, the number of plants in a market pack will vary (4-6 plants per market pack.)

Here's what your group needs to do:

- Watch for the order forms in your mailbox.
- Photocopy enough copies of the form to distribute to your gardening neighbors. (For vegetable gardens, one form per plot or gardener; for garden blocks, one form per participating household.)
- Give people a deadline to return completed forms and money to you. Give yourself enough time to tally your orders before the Philadelphia Green deadline.
- Compile all of the orders and fill out YOUR form with the total number of market packs and supplies. PLEASE SEND ONLY THE TOTALS, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL ORDER FORMS. Keep the individual forms for your own records. Also keep a copy of the completed tally sheet.
- Enclose the total prepayment with your order and mail to us by **MONDAY, APRIL 9.**

Send your order form with check or money order (NO CASH!!!) to:

Spring Sale/Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

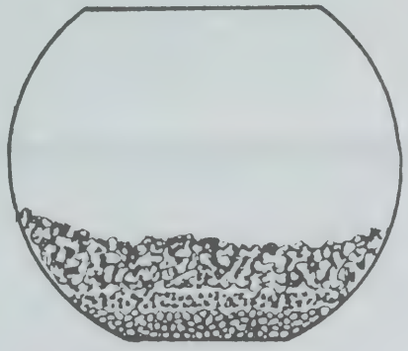
All orders must be picked up the day of the Sale.
We cannot be responsible for those orders not picked up on time.

Cultivating Kids

Yes, it's still too muddy to send the kids out to the garden. Here's something that they can do while they're waiting, something to let them get their hands dirty without getting everything else wet enough for pneumonia.

Any clear glass or plastic container without drainage can be used for a terrarium. This includes fish bowls, wide mouth jars, and recycled 2-liter plastic cola bottles.

How To Plant a Terrarium



- Make sure the inside of the container is clean.
- Put in one inch of washed gravel , colored stones or shells.
- Add 1/2 to 3/4 inch of granulated or aquarium charcoal.
- Add a two-inch layer of moistened potting soil. Give the soil surface contours (hills and valleys) to make it more interesting.
- Choose small, slow-growing plants for your landscape that prefer low light and moist conditions. Houseplants like creeping fig, fittonia, peperomia, pilea are excellent choices, and are readily available in many supermarkets.
- Plan how you want to place the plants. The tallest plants should go in the middle. Use odd numbers of plants.
- Make holes in the soil that are large enough for the plants' root balls.
- Gently remove the plants from the pots and set them into the planting holes. Firm the soil around the plants.
- Spray the soil with plain water, but not so much that you make mud.
- Landscape the terrarium with stones, gravel, driftwood, or small figures (animals, people, marbles).
- Place the terrarium in a shady location for about a week. After that you can move it to a brighter spot, as long as you avoid direct sunlight.

How to Care For Your Terrarium

- Spray or mist the plants and soil about ever ten days. If the soil becomes dry, give it just enough water top moisten the soil.
- The brighter the location, the faster the planter will dry out. Adjust watering frequency to fit your particular situation.
- If plants become too tall, trim them back or transplant them into their own containers and replace with smaller plants.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

This is the beginning of a new column. It is one way of recognizing and sharing the stories of gardeners with years of knowledge about digging in the dirt.

I remember back in horticulture school the debate that would rise from time to time over whether you called the earth you planted in, dirt or soil. I was influenced at the time by the opinions of the teachers who pushed the word soil. My eyes were finally opened by two of my favorite gardeners, Blanche Epps and Joanna Reed, when they acknowledged each other as "dirt gardeners". Blanche, a city-dirt gardener, has helped create a slice of the country at the Garden of Gethsemane in West Philadelphia. Joanna, a country-dirt gardener, has developed a series of gardens on the site of a once-dilapidated farm. I wish I could tell you all that went on when those two got together. If only I'd been one of the bugs on the plants they dug up on Blanche's first visit to Joanna's garden. But I must also confess I was still asleep. Since one of the first rules of a dirt gardener is to rise with the sun, I still have a lot to learn.

I am signing up as an apprentice dirt gardener. I recognize the powerful relationship that exists between people and the earth, especially when we dig in the dirt. I have spent years learning what there is in books. I still respect the knowledge that can be gained there. Yet I know, from watching Joanna, as I convalesced in her garden from last spring through summer and into fall, and listening to Blanche in our many phone calls during that time, that I also want to learn from the real experts; the ones who might defy what they read in books because they want to see for themselves; the ones who trust their own gardening instincts; the ones who know which plants like to grow side by side and which do not; and the ones who know that the moon and the earth work in harmony with each other.

So I invite you or any dirt gardener you love to share your stories of how you dig in the dirt. What are your special secrets for success? Who did you learn them from? When do you start in the spring? What are your favorite crops? Who are your favorite gardeners and why?

Drop me a line care of
PHILADELPHIA GREEN,
325 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19106.
Please include the gardener's address and phone number.

Here's to digging in the dirt!

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

March 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 12, No. 3 April 1990

Arbor Day, Earth Day, & Earth Worms

This year, people all over the world are being reminded of their responsibilities for the environment. Earth Day 1990 commemorates the twentieth anniverary of the original Earth Day, when many of us learned that we as individuals could help improve the environment. The message becomes more urgent as we approach Earth Day 1990.

Living in the city, each of us has a responsibility to take care of our own "piece of the rock." As gardeners, this includes some sort of green space — our parks, our gardens, our trees, our windowboxes, our pots of flowers on the front porch. While each of us celebrates Earth Day in our own personal way every day of the year, we invite you to join us as **Philadelphia Green** co-sponsors an Arbor Day Celebration at the conclusion of Earth Week.

Arbor Day conjures up sweet memories of the third grade class planting a tree in the school yard, or having to write a homework assignment on "Why Trees Are Our Friends." Few people stop to think that Arbor Day is more than just a child's holiday. It is a day for celebrating the wonder of trees.

The idea of Arbor Day, as a time dedicated to the planting of trees, was originated in Nebraska in 1872 by a newspaper publisher concerned about the rapid depletion of of his state's forests by new settlers and industry.

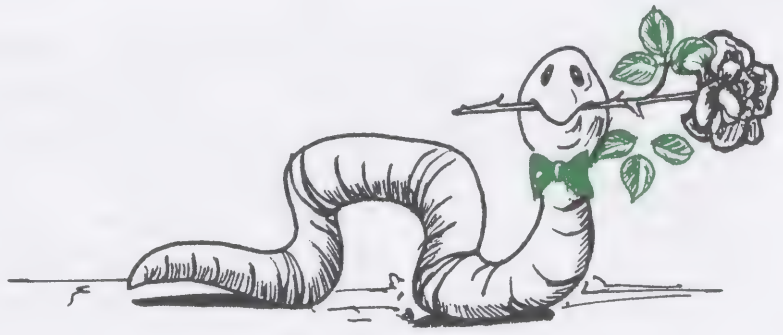
Today, the date of Arbor Day varies from state to state, and in Pennsylvania it is celebrated in the last week of April.

The **Arbor Day Celebration** is planned for Saturday, April 28th, at the same time as the Garden Sale. Workshops, demonstrations, and activities for children will take place around the Reflecting Pool at the Fairmount Park Horticultural Center from 10 AM to 3 PM. The Tree Planting Ceremony is set for 2 PM.

We invite you to participate in planting two 'Ben Franklin" trees (*Franklinia alatamaha.*) These trees are extinct in the wild, and will be transplanted from a nursery in the Smoky Mountains. All who attend will be a part of both the history and the future of Philadelphia. Along with Ben's trees, a time capsule will also be planted. Souvenir seedlings will be given away to all participants.

Co-sponsors of the event include the **Clean Air Council** and the **Philadelphia Ranger Corps**.

If you would like to volunteer your help, participate in some other way, or get more information, call Katie Shaw at 625-8280.



Meet Phil the Earth Worm, Philadelphia Green's Earth Week Mascot. And no, Virginia, he really didn't see his shadow in February.

1990 Junior Flower Show - May 17th to 19th *A Flash of Franklin*

Bring your kids and grandkids to the Junior Flower Show at the First Bank of the U.S. If they're budding gardeners or artists have them bring something they've grown or created. There are many categories they can enter and it's for all age groups. All entries are made on May 15th.

At the Show they can pot up a baby plant to take home and also see special displays by 4-H Clubs and local schools.

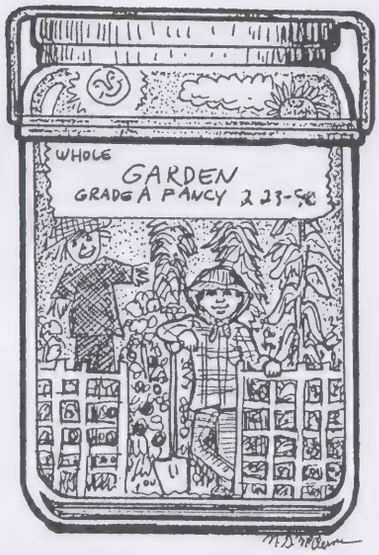
It's fun and it's free and we hope to see you there!

Registration of entries: Tues., May 15th - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Show open to public: Thurs. and Fri., May 17th and 18th - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sat., May 19th from 10 AM to 2 PM

Garden Preserves

The Neighborhood Gardens Association/ Philadelphia Land Trust recently took title to its first property. A section of the Seedy Acres community garden at 906-922 N. Leithgow in the Northern Liberties will now remain a garden for as long as the community continues to use it. Hopefully that will be forever!



Plant An Easter Basket

A favorite basket filled with small living plants is a natural Easter decoration. And depending on the plants, you can enjoy this basket garden for months, even years to come.

To prepare the basket, line it with a plastic bag or deep dish (the plastic container from a fast food salad bar is ideal.) Fill with potting soil. Some suggestions for plant material are: baby's tears, English ivy, herbs, small ferns like rabbit's foot, button, & maidenhair. To add color, include a pansy or Johnny-jump-up or a bright African violet. Vary textures and heights of plant material for more interest and contrast. But before planting, make sure the combination of plants has compatible lighting and moisture needs.

Use Spanish moss to trim basket edges and to form a nest to hold your cache of eggs.

An easy alternative to actually planting in the basket is to select two or three of your favorite small houseplants, arrange them artistically in the basket, and disguise the tops of the pots with Spanish moss. To add a touch of spring, cut a few daffodils or tulips (an odd number gives the best effect), put the stems in a small plastic bag with water, and tuck the baggie between the pots. A branch of forced forsythia wrapped around the handle completes the effect. A perfect centerpiece for your Easter table.

Cultivating Kids

What is EARTH DAY, and what's all this fuss about, anyway?

Every year each of us has a special day, our birthday, when people make a big fuss over us. Friends who we never hear from or talk to any other time of the year suddenly send us cards or call us on the phone to wish us a "Happy Birthday!!"

Many of us treat our planet the same way. Air and water and the ground are always there, so we pretty much take them for granted. Now, nobody expects you to send birthday cards to your planet, or to call your local tree on the phone every week, but there are a few things you can do to help your environment.

Earth Day, April 22, is celebrated to remind us to give thanks for what we have and to give us a chance to promise to take care of our environment. Our environment is everything that surrounds us -- buildings, sidewalks, the air we breathe, the water we drink. Our green environment is our parks, our gardens, our street trees, even the plants in pots on our windowsills, anything that grows in soil.

Here at Philadelphia Green we have adopted the EARTHWORM as our mascot for Earth Day. The earthworm is one of the best creatures in the world when it comes to working with the environment. They take in everything that comes along, animal, vegetable or mineral. They chew it up, and by the time they're finished they've turned it into soil that's perfect to grow flowers and plants. They take in all the garbage, and they give back soil, the most important part of the green environment.

Gardening Tips from All Over

Spring Soil Preparation

When you build a house, you need to put in a strong foundation; when you get ready for a long hike, you need to make sure you have good shoes. And when you start a garden, the most important place to begin is with a good strong soil.

Let's face it—the city isn't exactly well known for its excellent soil. So it's necessary each and every year to prepare the soil that you do have for this year's crops.

First, clear the planting bed of any rubble or boulders that may have worked their way to the surface during the winter months. Otherwise they fight with your shovel every step of the way. Don't remove the layer of dead leaves and grasses that blanket the soil, since they'll be the first meal of the season for earthworms once you turn this organic matter in.

With a pointed shovel, dig down to a depth of 8-10 inches. This will be practically impossible the first year, but will get easier with each passing season. Digging this deep breaks up clay chunks and puts the leaves and grasses down where they can be of use to plants and worms.

When finished, the garden should look like the surface of the moon—crater after crater. Exposing the subsoil in this manner allows the sun and warm spring air to take the chill off the cold soil. The warmer temperatures also help to make the soil creatures more active and ambitious.

Part two of the process is to improve the texture and quality of your soil. If digging to a depth of 8 inches was only possible by using dynamite, adding a few inches of organic matter is the answer. Peat moss, compost, or mushroom soil will increase the water-holding capacity and make soil easier to work. They will also break down over time to provide food for plants.

Additional food can be given to plants by adding nutrients to the soil now. Bloodmeal and bonemeal are organic fertilizers that provide nitrogen and potassium, needed for root and leaf growth. Rock phosphate is a good source of phosphorus, necessary for flower and fruit production. Add a few coffee cans of each over the garden. Chemical garden fertilizers like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can also be used now, but not without reading the directions first.

After spreading all of these things over the planting bed, rake or hoe it to break up the large clumps, and to mix together the ingredients. Smooth out the surface and let nature take its course. Spring rains will add moisture, the sun will add warmth, and all the little worms and soil critters will go to work aerating the soil and breaking down the organic matter into nutrients for plants to use.

Cool Season Crops For April

FROM SEED
(outdoors)

beets
carrots
corn
dill
gladiolus
kale
mustard
onions
parsnips
peas
potatoes
radishes
spinach
turnips

FROM TRANSPLANTS
(outdoors)

broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
clematis
daylilies
fruit trees
hardy herbs
leeks
lettuce
mint
pansies
raspberries
roses
strawberries
thyme

New Items for the Garden Day Sale

We hear you!! Some of our community gardeners have suggested that we try some new items at our sale that reflect new technologies. For the first time, PG will be offering two new products, **Wall O' Water** and **Reemay**. Both products have been field tested and have proven to be extremely useful as season extenders. Give them a try this year, and let us know what you think.

Wall O'Water

Wall O' Water These mini-greenhouses can extend the growing season for several weeks in either direction; they can be used to put plants out in the garden well before the **last** frost in May, and they can protect fall crops for up to a month after the **first** frost in October. Because each one is filled with water, they retain the sun's heat through the night and shield from excess heat during the day. Each Wall O'Water teepee is 18" high and 16" across and holds three gallons of water. They can be set up in minutes, can be used both spring and fall, and are made to last several seasons.

Reemay is a cloth made of featherlight spun polyester. It is heavy enough to insulate early plantings against frost, yet light enough to let in all the light and air that plants need to grow and thrive up to two weeks earlier than your normal planting schedule. In the fall you can drape it over your full-grown plants as protection against frost. Lay it directly on the plants or drape it over some sort of frame.

An added advantage is that it can also be used like mosquito netting to keep out insects. It has proven effective against cabbage worms, flea beetles, squash vine borers, leaf miners and root maggots. Just remember to remove it when blossoms appear, or bees won't be able to get in to do their job.

Reemay draped over a frame

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Upcoming Events
April, May & June 1990

April	7	"Clean-up & Green-up" at the City's Clean-Up Rally Pennsylvania Hall at the Civic Center 12-2 PM Stop by at the **Philadelphia Green** booth and pick up your free seed packets
	9	Deadline to pre-order for Spring Sale
	9	Passover begins at sunset
	15	Easter
	22	**EARTH DAY** 20th Anniversary
	22-28	**EARTH WEEK**
	20	**Pruning Fruit Trees & Bushes & Grape Vines** 11:00 2224 N. Phillip St., Kensington 1:00 41st & Parkside, West Philadelphia
	28	**Arbor Day Celebration & Spring Sale** at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park Join us for Arbor Day Festivities and pick up your pre-ordered garden supplies and plants.
May	10	Herb Sale, Chester County
	12	Spruce Hill May Fair, Clark Park
	15	Junior Flower Show Registration
	17-19	**Junior Flower Show,** First Bank, on 3rd St. between Chestnut & Walnut Bring your budding horticulturalists to the Junior Show and celebrate a *FLASH OF FRANKLIN*
June	10	Last day to enter your garden in the City Gardens Contest.
	21	First Day of Summer

On the Vine

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY!

Here's an opportunity to spend a day in the country and purchase your favorite herbs

Join us for a trip to the

HERB SALE

in
Kimberton, PA
Sponsored by the Herb Society of America,
Philadelphia Chapter

Date: Thursday, May 10th

Time: Departure 8:30 AM from PHS, 325 Walnut Street
Return 3:00 PM (approximate)

Cost: $5.00

Lunch: Bring your own brown bag and blanket
or "sit-upon" for a picnic on the grounds

Don't forget to bring a basket, bag, or box to transport your purchases.

---------- tear off ----------

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $5.00 each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

DEADLINE: MAY 1

Make check or money order payable to **Penna. Hort. Society** & mail to
Flossie Narducci
PHS
325 Walnut Street
Phila., PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Lots of community gardeners know **Almena Monteiro**. She's been entering her wines and goodies from her North Philadelphia garden in the Harvest Show for years. Her herbal soaps and salves are legendary at fairs and neighborhood functions. She's made friends with folks who have attended **Urban Gardening** workshops and **Philadelphia Green** activities over the years as well.

I've assumed that Almena has always been a gardener. You know how it is. Some people are so at home in their garden, you just know they've always been doing things in the dirt. She has actually only been gardening since 1975.

Almena started with a couple of friends, studying gardening books and reading the backs of seed packets as they went along. Although she was as surprised as anyone, she learned quickly and took to gardening like a duck to water. To her it felt "just like I was part of the earth. The whole thing was really easy".

In 1977, she began gardening at 12th and Wallace with help from Penn State's **Urban Gardening Program**. After folks from the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited her garden, they invited her to speak in Washington about the importance of gardens in the city. She told people there that gardening was a kind of th[illegible]py and could really help people

After four seasons, she and her fellow gardeners were forced to move from 12th and Wallace. The bulldozers came to prepare the site for house construction. The gardeners were heart-broken. All their work, picking out stones and junk, and adding compost , would be wasted. As the work crew got started with their bulldozers, she brought coffee and homemade bread each day. Before long, the workmen moved all the great dirt from 12th and Wallace to the new garden at 11th and Mount Vernon.

Almena will be out in the garden as early in the season as weather permits. She and her fellow community gardeners avoid using harsh insecticides against the critters that move in on the crops. Instead they rely on corn meal, flour, and sometimes ant traps or rotenone. The gardeners would rather try them than the chemical poisons, because as Almena says, "they're no good for the earth or for your body".

For Almena, being in her garden is "like party time. I really like to be there. When folks ask me where I'm going for vacation, I say 'I'm on vacation everyday in my garden.'" Almena lives a simple, very plain life, working in her gardens, using the harvest for food and health, loving every minute of it.

Share your stories of how you or a gardener you love digs in the dirt. Drop me a line, care of **Philadelphia Green**. *Please include address and phone number.*

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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Graphics by Dorrie Bartes
Edited by Sally McCabe

Printed on Recycled Paper

April 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 12, No. 4. May 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Arizona Street

by Patricia Schrieber

Jimmy Norris is well known in his neighborhood around **Arizona and 29th Street** in Strawberry Mansion. He's the man who can get anybody to do anything. Starting in the fall of 1988, Jimmy pulled people out of the woodwork to push a wheelbarrow, move soil and gravel, pull weeds. All because he and his neighbors **Emma Sheed, Valerie Robinson** and **Clark Davis** wanted to make a garden at the end of their street.

Everyone is thrilled with how beautiful the garden looked last summer. When designing the garden, Jimmy and his neighbors took advantage of the slight natural slope and how much sun and shade the site received. They created a raised garden with star- and sunburst-shaped beds. Where there's deep shade, yew and other shade-loving plants thrive. Cactus and herbs occupy the sunnier spots. The hard-working gardeners made sure to include a picnic table and benches for a moment of rest.

The success of the Arizona Street garden has become contagious, and other groups in the neighborhood now want to start their own gardens.

Plans for the coming year include building a barbecue pit so neighbors can do some serious partying.

Philadelphia Youth and the Farm Show

by Patricia Schrieber

In January, 20 young gardeners from two community gardens, the **Garden of Life** (North Phila.) and the **Garden of Gethsemane** (West Phila.), prepared a total of 31 entries for competition at this year's Farm Show in Harrisburg. Their horticultural entries included terrariums with three distinct themes (woodland, desert, and forest) and dish gardens of succulents, with four different kinds of Aloe vera highlighted. The two clubs worked together as "garden pals", sharing plants, seeds, craft materials and ideas. They entered as a combined **4-H Plant Science / Garden Club.** Ranging in ages from 8 to 14, their years of experience varied. Their "parent" gardens range in age, too. The Garden of Life is one year old and the Garden of Gethsemane has ten growing seasons under its belt.

Congratulations to the kids and everyone for their participation and cooperation!

A. Glover	**J. Stovall**
R. Smith	**B. Scott**
M. Giddens	**T. Epps**
M. Wright	**R. Reid**
S. Mickey	**K. Epps**
V. Everett	**A. Epps**
L. Taylor	**E. Epps**
M. Marcus	**T. Epps**
M. Hallaway	**T. F. Epps**
S. Giddens	**K. N. Epps**

Jimmy Norris works his magic in Strawberry Mansion.

Grandmother's Garden

Do you remember how your grandmother gardened? If so, garden writer Laura C. Martin would like your help. She first realized there was a huge interest in this topic after she wrote an article about her Aunt Bessie. "I wrote of her old-fashioned ways in the garden, of her superstitions, and of her ageless customs which produced a garden of great renown." The response led to her decision to write a book.

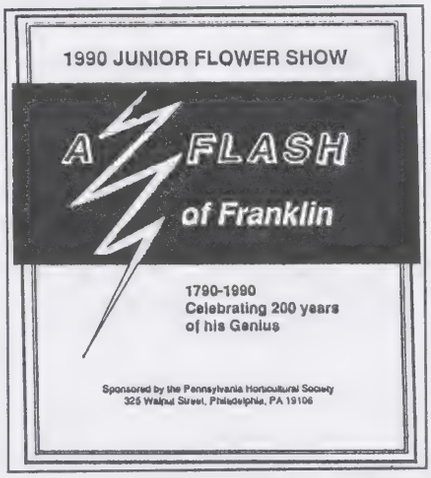
She would like assistance from any "old-fashioned" gardeners or those who remember how their mothers and grandmothers gardened. Write to:

Laura C. Martin
616 Starlight Drive
Atlanta, GA 30343

Philadelphia Rangers

The **Philadelphia Ranger Corps** is recruiting young people who would like to work in an urban park. To be eligible, you must be under 21, a city resident and a high school graduate with a C+ average. The program consists of orientation, two years at Temple University, and on-the-job training. There is a salary, along with benefits and free tuition. The Corps will accept applications to fill up 40 vacancies in their classes entering July, 1990 and 1991. For more information, contact PRC, Ohio House, Fairmount Park, Belmont Avenue at States Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19131 or call **215-RANGERS**.

Junior Flower Show May 17th to 19th



A FLASH OF FRANKLIN

Bring your kids and grandkids to the Junior Flower Show at the First Bank of the U.S. If they're budding gardeners or artists have them bring something they've grown or created. There are many categories they can enter (call for a list) and it's for all age groups. This year's theme is **A Flash of Franklin -- Benjamin Franklin 1990.** All entries are due on May 15th.

At the Show they can pot up a baby plant to take home and also see special displays.

It's fun and it's free and we hope to see you there!

Registration of entries: Tues., May 15th - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Show open to public: Thurs. and Fri., May 17th and 18th - 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sat., May 19th - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Food For Thought

This activity was developed by the Knox Parks Foundation in Hartford, CT for teaching adults as well as schoolchildren.

We all depend on soil for our food. As the world's population grows, the amount of soil capable of supporting each person is reduced, making it essential that we use the diminishing per capita soil supply wisely. How much soil do we have to work with?

Cut an apple into quarters. Take away three of the quarters, which represent ocean areas, leaving one quarter of land areas.

Cut the "land" quarter in half, and take away one of the halves, representing areas which are unsuitable for human habitation.

Cut the remaining eighth of the apple into four equal parts. Three of these parts represent areas unsuitable for growing crops, either because of poor weather or soils, or because of development for other uses; take them away, leaving one-thirty-second of the apple.

Peel the remaining piece. The tiny piece of peel represents the soil upon which we all depend for food. Now return to your garden and practice soil conservation with the tininess of that piece of peel in mind.

JOIN PHILADELPHIA'S CITY GARDEN CONTEST

Sponsored by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in cooperation with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program, the City Gardens Contest gives Philadelphians recognition for their skillful and imaginative gardening and offers them the opportunity to compete for prizes in several gardening categories.

Just as William Penn planned his city around four green squares, so city gardeners continue the tradition as neighbors turn clusters of blocks into present day "Greene Countrie Townes." Ethnic heritages and gardening techniques are lovingly nurtured, and gourmet cooking is reinforced by gardeners' choices of vegetables and herbs. The City Gardens Contest acts as a conduit for sharing such garden lore.

Initiated in 1975, the City Gardens Contest had some 100 entries, with 22 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Garden Club members judging the finalists. By 1985, the contest had grown to over 500 entries with 375 city and suburban gardeners working to visit all contestants during July and August.

CONTESTANTS

Home gardeners may enter front-yard or back-yard flower and vegetable gardens, or gardens grown exclusively in containers. Community gardeners may participate by entering their community vegetable gardens, their community flower gardens/sitting parks, garden blocks with street planters and window boxes, or blocks with trees and front yards.

JUDGES AND JUDGING

Volunteer judges are chosen for their competence and accomplishments in gardening. Vegetable and flower gardens, garden blocks and green blocks are judged for maintenance and horticultural practices, the variety, color and suitability of the plantings, their design and total visual effect — with extra points awarded for imagination and ingenuity.

AWARDS CELEBRATION

Winning gardeners and judges are invited to an Awards Program held in mid-September when the high calibre of winning gardens is celebrated at a gala event. All gardeners entering the Contest are recognized with a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society certificate for their participation. Contestants are given the opportunity to receive the judges' notes on their gardens.

PARTICIPATE — BE A CONTESTANT AND/OR JUDGE

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society believes that city gardeners deserve praise and support for their work and ability to cope with difficult growing conditions. The City Gardens Contest is part of the recognition and friendship offered by the Society. It's a rewarding experience for both contestants and judges.

CALL THE SOCIETY AT 625-8280 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bell of Pennsylvania is pleased to be a part of this endeavor

A Bell Atlantic Company
Bell of Pennsylvania

CITY GARDENS CONTEST ENTRY BLANK

Name: _____

Address: _____ **ZIP** _____

ENTRANTS MUST LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA

Address of Garden: _____ (If other than above)

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

First place winners receive $50, second place $25, and third place $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

MAIL TO: **CITY GARDENS CONTEST**
PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DEADLINE: JUNE 10

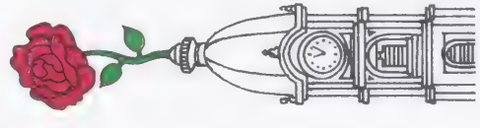
Check appropriate category

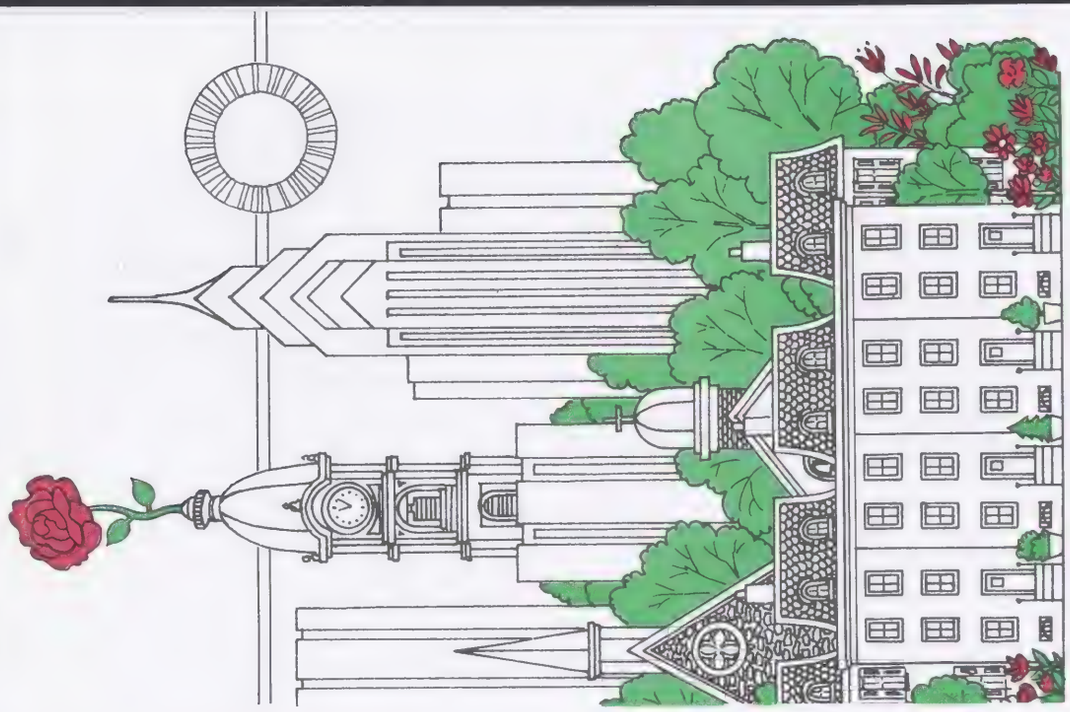
INDIVIDUAL GARDENS

- ☐ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Flower Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ☐ Individual Container Garden
- ☐ Child's Garden

COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- ☐ Community Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ☐ Children's Garden
- ☐ Garden Block with Window Boxes and Sidewalk Planters
- ☐ "The Greenest Block in Town" Street trees/front yards.





CITY GARDENS CONTEST

Deadline: June 10

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CITY GARDENS CONTEST
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

CITY GARDENS CONTEST
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Cultivating Kids

National Garden Week Poster Contest
Cosponsored by the National Garden Bureau and the National Junior Horticultural Association

"Plants Grow Children — The Leaders of Tomorrow"

Contest Rules:

1. Enter one of three divisions based on age: Division 1 — Ages 5-7; Division 2 — Ages 8-10; Division 3 — Ages 11-14.
2. Drawing size must be 8 1/2 by 11 inches.
3. Only one entry per participant.
4. Place artist's name, age and address on back of poster.
5. Poster must be an original color drawing based on the theme:
   "Plants Grow Children — The Leaders of Tomorrow"
6. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with each entry.
   Results will be mailed to each entrant. Entries will not be returned.
7. **Entries must be mailed by May 15, 1990** to:
   National Garden Week Poster Contest
   Jan Hoffman
   441 E. Pine Street
   Freemont, MI 49412

Coming Up in May & June 1990

May 10 Herb Sale, Kimberton, Chester County

10 **Last Frost Date** in Philadelphia

15 Junior Flower Show Registration

17-19 **Junior Flower Show,** First Bank, on 3rd St. between Chestnut & Walnut. Bring your budding horticulturists to the Junior Show and celebrate a ***FLASH OF FRANKLIN***

June 10 Last day to enter your garden in the City Gardens Contest.

17 Father's day Give Dad flowers.

21 First day of Summer

Plant seeds:

annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
cucumbers
herbs
lettuce
peanuts
squash

Plant transplants:

broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:

peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Tomasita Romero first began gardening when she was six years old in Puerto Rico. Growing up on a farm in hilly country, there, with no brothers, she would follow behind her father planting corn and pigeon peas seeds in the holes he made in the field. It was hard work. She wonders now how she did it. Knowing how energetically she works these days, at neighboring **Hunter School**, in her garden and in her community around **Norris Square**, you could easily imagine her as a young girl moving along the farm rows.

After arriving in Philadelphia, years passed before Tomasita gardened again. Though she often thought about growing food for her family, there was no room to garden in her part of Kensington. About 15 years ago, after two buildings had been demolished next door, she and her cousin started a garden with the help of **Philadelphia Green**. Though memories of pigeon peas danced in her head, it was only five years ago that she discovered, through Penn State's **Urban Gardening Program**, that she could grow a perennial variety that could be brought inside to ov[illegible]r.

Last yea[illegible]anted marigolds and chrysan[illegible]ms around the vegetables. Because it looked so good, Tomasita will mix colorful flowers with the vegetables again this year. Her designs just seem to happen unconsciously. "Plants are just in there growing. I put something in where there's a little space. I'm learning as I go along." The result is a very pretty garden. With one gaze at the early crocus, daffodils, and forsythia you can tell Tomasita loves flowers. Later in the season, begonias, coleus and impatiens fill the scene. Soon, though, more perennials will be used as time-savers.

Tomasita will be planting her tomatoes and peppers sometime in May. Her May plans include reshaping her flower beds in the front of the garden. She's also committed to pulling up self-seeded cherry tomatoes that come up each year.

Readers who are interested in getting a share of her cherry tomato seedlings (and maybe swapping a few of their extra seedlings in return) should call Tomasita at 634-3971.

How do <u>you</u> dig in the dirt? What are your stories and recipes for success?

*Call me at **625-8280.** We all want to know.*

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

May 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 12, No. 5. June 1990

Arbor Day 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT * TREES

Philadelphia celebrates Arbor Day with the Fairmount Park Ranger Corps Honor Guard, the ceremonial planting of a Franklinia Tree, and the burying of a time capsule.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN 325 Walnut Street, Phila. PA 19106 625-8280 a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Greening Up PHA

Emlen Arms

Gladys Blackwell is the very energetic President of **Emlen Arms Tenant Council.** When she and fellow residents like **Gloria Holmes, Oreatha Fleming** and **Leona Wallace** started talking about surrounding their apartment building with beautiful gardens, people listened.

The Emlen group was first assisted by Nancy Sullivan, a horticultural therapist from the **Northwest Center**. Together they began working on their shady courtyard. Ms. Blackwell then enlisted **Philadelphia Green's** help on a container garden for flowers and vegetables in a sunny spot, and further work on the courtyard. Spring plans for the courtyard include colorful flower borders surrounding a sitting area accessible to wheelchairs.

Many of Emlen's senior citizens, who are great garden lovers, are physically disabled. Ms. Blackwell, so able at tapping available resources, has found a willing supply of younger energy in a group of eight students from **Abraham Lincoln High School**. Headed by teacher **Karen Lehman**, the students prepared beds, and planted perennials and bulbs recycled from the **Philadelphia Flower Show**.

The Emlen Arms team certainly shows how much we can do when we join hands with one another!

Morton Homes

Since last summer, residents of Morton Homes have become more and more involved in the greening of their neighborhood. Participation has been great at all the workshops. Bulbs planted at the Fall workshop have popped up everywhere this Spring. Residents who started seeds at the Propagation workshop in March look forward to summer flowers.

Seven sites around Morton Homes are slated as prospective garden areas this year based on participation in the Winter Garden Design workshop. Residents are beginning work on three of the seven sites this Spring. These sites cluster near the intersection of Morton and Rittenhouse Streets. Residents are working on a step-by-step process of turning their frontyards into colorful gardens with perennials, annuals, and shrubs. Their efforts will be supported by attendance at several workshops on planting and maintaining their gardens.

Residents around the other four sites must wait for their work to begin. Garden development is on hold there until PHA approves the necessary construction work to provide outside access to water.

Ethel Cooper, President of Morton's Tenant Council, selected **Sylvia Bell** as a very enthusiastic Tenant Coordinator for the Greening Program. Sylvia is assisted by **Wanda Sheaff** and **Jackie Perry**.

West Phila Landscape & Greening Project

34th & Mantua

The **34th & Mantua Triangle** Lot has been cleaned up! Thanks go to the **West Philadelphia Hunger Clean-up Campaign** that occurred on March 31, 1990. **Melissa Checker**, Chairperson and student from the **University of Pennsylvania** listed this location as one of several sites for the West Philadelphia Clean-Up Project.

We are now ready to move to the next step and explore in detail how we want to beautify this site. Collectively, all of us can make the **Ribbon of Gold Project** a reality.

We can be inspired by the beautiful show of flowers at the **40th & Baltimore** SEPTA Depot. If you haven't had a chance to visit this location, treat yourself! It's a true testament to what can happen when community members work together to make West Philadelphia a more beautiful place.

Blondell Reynolds,
Executive Director
West Philadelphia Partnership

West Philadelphia Month

May was proclaimed **West Philadelphia Month** by Mayor **Wilson Goode** at the first annual **Youth Recognition Banquet,**

Special Note of Thanks

We appreciate all who collected signatures
to mail to Council members,
who wrote letters and made phone calls
to show your support for renewal of our funding
from the City.

Many thanks to all of you who came out
in support of PHILADELPHIA GREEN in the
Office of Housing and Community Development's
budget hearings before the City Council.

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr. Director
PHILADELPHIA GREEN and CENTER CITY

sponsored by the West Philadelphia Partnership and more than 60 other community based organizations. The theme was *"West Philadelphia: Preparing Our Next Generation of Community Leaders"*.

West Philadelphia Month was designed to promote the cultural diversity of West Philadelphia as well as provide an opportunity for all citizens of the area to feel positive about the community in which they live.

According to **Blondell Reynolds**, Executive Director of the **West Philadelphia Partnership**, "The leadership of our member organizations firmly believes that if we all work together, we can indeed improve the quality of life for those of us who live and work in West Philadelphia.

***The West Philadelphia Landscape Plan and Greening Project** is a cooperative effort of the **West Philadelphia Partnership, Philadelphia Green**, and the **University of Pennsylvania**.*

Gardening Tips from All Over

June Hints

- Prune shrubs after they bloom
- Divide, plant, and fertilize perennials
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming
- Plant annuals
- Plant tender bulbs
- Apply mulch to plantings
- Check for insects and diseases
- Trim and plant ground covers
- Plant perennials and biennials for bloom next year
- Stake tall plants as they start to grow
- Remove dead flowers from plants to encourage new blooms

Seed Needs

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care they get enough water during this stage of development.

What to Plant

Plant from seed:
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
collards
corn
cucumbers
dahlias
herbs
okra
melons
pumpkins
squash

Plant from Transplants
broccoli
brussels sprouts
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
eggplant
herbs
peppers
sweet potatoes
tomatoes

Tips for Transplanting

Find the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants
- look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant
- remove gently from container
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole.

One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label

Coming Up in June 1990

June 5 Deadline to register for trip to Meadowbrook

6 6 - 8 pm **Designing Topiaries**
Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen.

9 10 - 2 **Walking Tour of Strawberry Mansion Gardens**
Starts at **30th & Cecil B. Moore**

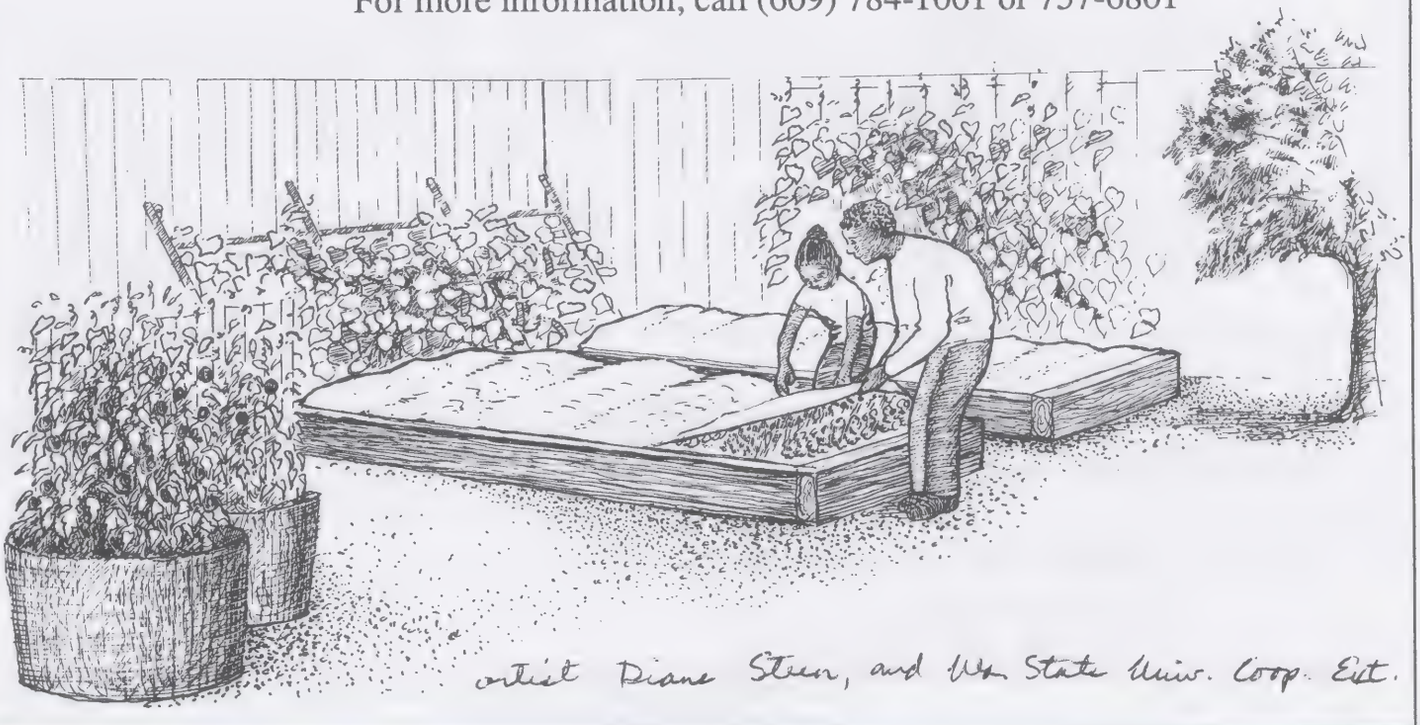
10 Last day to enter your garden in the **City Gardens Contest**.

13 Trip to Meadowbrook Farm

17 Father's day Give Dad flowers.

21 First day of Summer

July 28 & 29 **New Jersey & Peaches -- Perfect Together**
8th Annual Camden County Peach Festival
The Stadium in Cooper River Park, Pennsauken, NJ
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING
For more information, call (609) 784-1001 or 757-6801



Meet the Challenge!

Register to receive free seeds for the 1990 Harvest Show Challenge Class.

What is a Challenge Class?

All participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in these classes are judged according to how typical they are of a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 20, or Friday, September 21.

The 1990 selections are:

Pepper 'Super Cayenne' is a decorative edible pepper suitable for container culture. These vigorous plants, 2 ft. high, produce bumper crops of thin, fiery hot 3 - 4" long peppers. They can be harvested green or left to mature to red. Excellent eaten fresh and dry very well.

Cinnamon Basil resembles Sweet Basil but has a cinnamon flavor and fragrance.

Zinnia 'Rose Pinwheel' is the first Rose Zinnia with mildew resistance. Hardy vigorous, spreading plants topped with single, daisy-like flowers 2 1/2 to 3 inches across, with bright yellow centers. Blooms open pink, mature to deep rose. Height 12 inches.

---------- **tear off** ----------

I would like to enter the 1990 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me the following seeds:

_____ **Pepper 'Super Cayenne"**
_____ **Cinnamon Basil**
_____ **Zinnia 'Rose Pinwheel"**

Flossie Narducci
PHILADELPHIA GREEN TRIP
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

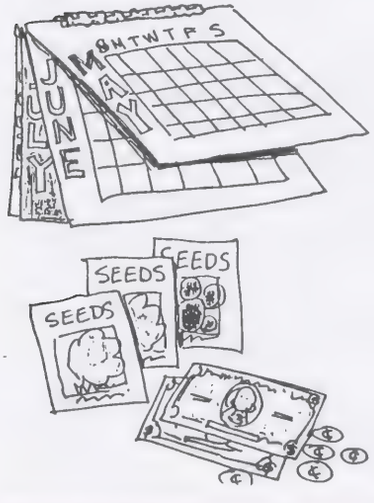
Get Ready for Fall

Most gardeners know the difference between cool season planting and warm season planting. All gardeners practice **Warm season gardening**, which includes everything that is damaged by frost and has to wait for the higher temperatures of May and June (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet potatoes.)

Good gardeners start gardening long before warmer weather. **Cool season gardening** is what happens before the last frost, and it includes many root crops (carrots, beets, turnips, radishes, potatoes, etc) , leaf and cole crops (lettuce, mustard, turnips, spinach, rape, kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and collards.)

But the best gardeners always remember that there's a third season to plan for, **the fall garden**. Gardening doesn't have to end with a cleanup after the first frost around Halloween—it can be stretched into the winter. And with the help of a cold frame, some really hardy plants can be kept alive until spring rolls around again.

Most of the same early crops you planted in spring, which prefer the cooler weather of spring and fall, can be planted again for a late harvest



Counting Backward

June & July are the times to start planning for your fall garden. And successful planning rests on your being able to count backwards.

Pick up any seed packet. Chances are good that somewhere in the planting instructions will be the important item **DAYS TO HARVEST**. This is an estimate of how long it will take before you'll be able to start picking anything of a reasonable size. This means the first leaf of lettuce, the first radish, the first taste of kale.

KALE
Dwarf Blue Curled, Vate's Strain

Parsley-like leaves that are never bitter are very desirable as greens and for garnishing. Can be grown as both a spring and early fall crop. Loaded with vitamins A and C and the B group. This packet will plant a 175 foot row.

Days to Germination	Days to Harvest	Planting Depth	Spacing: Row/Plant	Preserve By
8-12	60	¼-½ in.	12 in / 12 in	Freezing

DIRECTIONS:

Sow in outdoor row as soon as ground can be worked. Place one seed every 4 inches and cover with soil.

When plants are about 3 in. tall, thin to 12 in. apart. Harvest side leaves as needed at 6 to 8 in. in length.

SUGGESTIONS: Make several pickings during season for abundant crop before hot weather. Sow again in midsummer for fall crop. A light fall frost makes the pleasant flavor of the leaves even better.

OUTDOOR PLANTING DATES:	
Zone 1	Aug-April
Zone 2	Feb-March & July-Aug
Zone 3	March-April & June-July
Zone 4	April-June

Since fall crops generally taste better if they mature in the cooler weather of September and October, take the "days to harvest" figure and begin to count backward from the beginning of October. Kale, which takes at least 60 days to mature, should be started when?? (Count back — September, August, and start plants in July.) 90 days brings you back to June, and 100 days puts you to work even sooner.

For some people, fall planting brings a double blessing; for others, it takes away some of the guilt if you never got around to planting the first crop last spring!

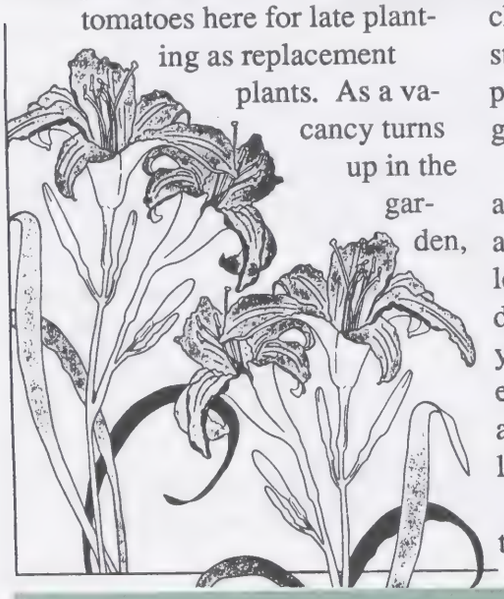
More Gardening Tips

Seedling Nursery

There are many reasons for vacancies in your garden. Some plants fall prey to bugs and large feet; some develop diseases and need to be removed; others are harvested for the dinner table. Starting a mini-nursery will guarantee that you have plants available to fill in these holes as they appear.

Pick a spot in the garden to start seedlings. A cold frame is ideal, since it provides a little protection along with fresh air and lots of sun. An area of a few square feet is enough for your nursery, as seeds can be sown close together. They don't mind the crowding, since they'll be transplanted later out into the garden, where they'll have plenty of room to stretch their legs.

Prepare soil at least a foot deep with plenty of organic matter, like compost. This holds moisture, helps add nutrients, and makes life easy for tender seedlings. Start lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, collards, and even a few tomatoes here for late planting as replacement plants. As a vacancy turns up in the garden, transplant a seedling to fill it.



You can also use the nursery to start perennials from seed. Pansies, shasta daisies, primroses, foxglove, delphiniums and hollyhocks can all be started for bloom next year.

Divide & Conquer

By now, most of Philadelphia's **iris** are done blooming and are ready for summer care. For young clumps, remove the old flower stalks so plants don't waste energy producing seeds. For older clumps, get ready to divide and conquer.

Clumps older than 3 or 4 years are crowded and have used up the available nutrients, and will bloom less and less each year unless divided. This is the best time of year for this operation, since plants enter into an almost dormant state after blooming, and will suffer very little transplant shock.

Iris grow out from the center, so the youngest and healthiest roots are always on the outer edges of the clump. When dividing, plant the fattest, healthiest roots (rhizomes) in small bunches with fans of leaves trimmed by two-thirds and facing out while roots face in.

Prepare the new planting spot (even if it's in the same spot as the old one) with plenty of organic matter and bone meal. The iris will live there undisturbed for several years, so you'll want to make sure they have plenty to eat.

A typical old clump of iris has at least five times as many roots as needed for the amount of space. Give the rest away, making sure to mark the bunches so people know what color their gifts will be when they bloom. Some gardeners even write the color or variety on the leaves with laundry marker!

Blanched Cauliflower

Cauliflower planted in April should have flower buds the size of a fist by now. **Blanching** them will produce the biggest, whitest heads. In this case, blanching does not mean boiling lightly. What it does mean is tying up the large outer leaves over the flower head to keep out the sun. Cauliflower heads exposed to sunlight turn tough and green and taste bitter.

To blanch, pull the outer leaves into a topknot. Tie together with string or a rubber band until harvest. Another way to blanch is to break a few leaves over the top of the head. With either method, always do it on a dry, sunny day so moisture won't be trapped inside and rot the buds.

On the Vine

Join us for lunch and a tour of

MEADOWBROOK FARM

on

Wednesday, June 13th

Distinguished horticulturist J. Liddon Pennock, JR. will host visitors for a tour of his home and gardens, famous for their topiaries, statuary, espaliers, and gazebos. Greenhouses and nursery will be open, as well as the display gardens.

Box lunches will be provided.

Departure: 10:00 AM PHS, 325 Walnut
Return: 2:00 PM (approximate)

Cost: $8.00

DEADLINE IS JUNE 5TH

---------- tear off ----------

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $8.00 each

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED_____

Please make check or money order payable to PHS and mail to

Flossie Narducci **PHILADELPHIA GREEN TRIP** 325 Walnut Street Phila, PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

In 1986, **David Miazio**, Recreation Therapist at **SPIN (Special People in the Northeast)** took over the garden program there. Dave was a newborn at gardening and learned mostly through books, magazines and, of course, from the garden itself. Since then, SPIN has won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the **City Gardens Contest** Community Garden category.

SPIN clients range from 27 to 65 years old. Many live in group homes and spend each day at the center. Dave has a group of ten people who are very involved in tending the garden. Dave might customize some tasks, especially for someone with a physical disability. Or, he might carefully instruct someone, who tends to grab things, about treating the seedlings very gently.

SPIN has several garden areas. In the fenced vegetable garden, they generally grow crops that have done well for them in the past, with a few new ones each year. Dave likes those that sprout quickly, giving clients something to see immediately. He uses no chemical controls for diseases or insects, as a safety precaution around the clients. He wants to try some organic contr[illegible] year.

SPIN's fr[illegible]len is purely ornamental, v[illegible]wering shrubs and a tree. Dave and his gardeners will be building paths there this summer for clients in wheelchairs to bring them closer to the garden.

A small triangular raised bed next to the wheelchair ramp is filled with bright-colored flowers, special favorites with SPIN gardeners.

Dave guides clients in woodworking activities as well. They create bird and flower ornaments for the SPIN gardens and for sale at craft shows. The garden crew will erect a trellis this year for morning glories and canary creeper to climb. **Burpee** donated the seeds.

Dave is pleased by the progress the clients make as they garden. He spoke of one man who had only been gardening a short time last spring. When Dave returned from a brief vacation, the man came up to him, smiled, and said, "My buddy Dave is back, so we can go out back and dig in the garden." What grows along with the vegetables and flowers in the SPIN gardens are strong feelings of pride, purpose and accomplishment.

The SPIN garden budget is very limited. If anyone has plants or seeds to share, call Dave Miazio at 464-4700.

Share stories of how you or a gardener you love digs in the dirt. Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 12, No. 6. July/August 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Olney High

Olney High School, located at Front & Duncannon in Olney, celebrated Earth Week with the planting of a Franklinia Tree and perennial bed. Inspiration for the project came from **Hector Abreu** of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, who is working with the agency's **Hispanic Relations Council.** The Council adopted Olney High School because of the ethnic diversity of the student population.

Olney's International Class, led by **Dr. Reuben Yarmus**, participated in a two-day Pruning and Planting Workshop. Thirty students, speaking many different languages such as Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Polish, worked together starting the renovation of the property's vast amount of old, overgrown shrubs, some of which were planted more than thirty years ago.

PG staff led smaller groups of the students in hands-on education on use of tools, preparing planting beds, renovating old shrubs, and proper planting techniques for trees.

Said project staff leader **Eileen Gallagher**: "We've enjoyed working with such a diverse group of enthusiastic kids, and we hope that they will be able to take home some of these new-found skills and use them to help beautify their own neighborhoods.

Free Library

Philadelphia Green congratulates the **Free Library of Philadelphia**! This past April, **Leonard Schumann**, the gardener for the Free Library, **Helen Mullen**, the Coordinator of the Office of Work with Children, and **Curtis Kiefer**, Head of **Central Children's Department**, with the assistance of neighborhood children planted an herb and flower garden outside the Central Children's Department at the Central Library, 19th & Vine Streets. This special occasion marked the first time a garden was ever planted at the library.

Students plant a Franklinia tree and a perennial garden at Olney High School, Front & Duncannon Streets

Hydrant Permits

If your garden is planning to use a fire hydrant for watering this summer, the City requires you to have a **Hydrant Permit**. To acquire yours, send the following to **Bettie McGill** at **Philadelphia Green**:

- $9 check or money order, payable to "City of Philadelphia"
- Exact address of hydrant (such as "southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut" or "325 Chestnut"
- Name of person who will be using the hydrant
- Address of garden or garden block

Environmental Youth Awards

The **1990 President's Environmental Youth Awards Program** is looking for individuals, school classes, schools and youth organizations who are promoting local environmental awareness through positive community involvement. If you or someone you know is involved in an environmental project with youth in your community, you deserve the recognition.

Applications are available through the **Environmental Protection Agency's Center for Environmental Learning**. Call 597-6685 today. Applications must be submitted by July 31st.

FREE — COMPOST — FREE

WHAT?	Compost is a mixture of decaying material like leaves, roots, and manure.
WHY?	When added to your garden, your trees, flowers and vegetables thrive.
WHERE?	Fairmount Park Recycling Center Ford Road between Chamounix Drive and West River Drive
WHEN?	Monday through Saturday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
WHAT ELSE?	While picking up your compost, you can also drop off newspapers, clear glass bottles and jars for recycling.

Coming Up in July & August 1990

July 11 **Topiary Workshop** Join staff and Board members as they learn to form shrubs & herbs into magical shapes and characters. Call Patricia Schrieber to register and for location.

July 1-20 **City Gardens Contest**
Preliminary judging

August 1-20 **City Gardens Contest**
Final Judging

Plant seeds:
beans
beets
chinese cabbage
collards
corn
cucumbers
kale
lettuce
pansies

Plant transplants:
brussels sprouts
chrysanthemums

Wait for August:
endive
peas
spinach
radishes
carrots

Join us at the 1990 Community Gardeners' HARVEST PARTY

Date: Saturday, September 22nd

Time: 6:00 to 8:30 PM
Place: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
Fairmount Park

It's Free!

You can order five free tickets for your community group. You will receive additional tickets when you make an entry at the Harvest Show. These tickets will be available at the Registration Tables.

REGISTRATION: Thursday, September 20th 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Friday, September 21st 7:30 - 10:00 PM
DEADLINE September 1st

To get your free tickets, fill out the tear-off below and return to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

----------tear-off----------

Address of garden_____

Contact Person_____

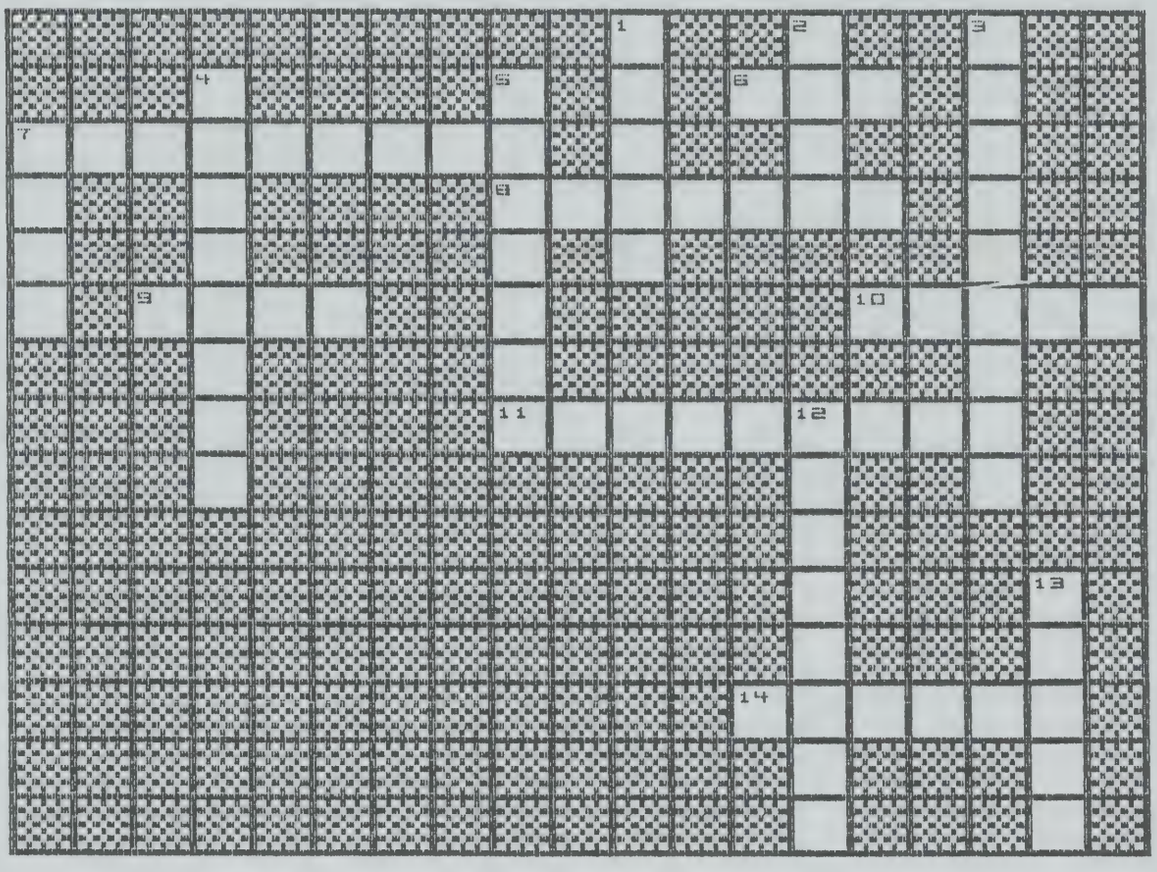
Home Address_____Zip_____

Phone # _____

DEADLINE: September 1st

Cultivating Kids

Recycling Word Puzzle



ACROSS CLUES

6. take your own to the grocery store
7. to break down or rot
8. the result of letting leaves, grass clippings and vegetable waste decompose
9. one person's _____ is another's find
10. gets crushed and melted in the recycling process
11. a Philadelphia product made from human waste
14. to throw trash on the sidewalk or street

DOWN CLUES

1. they will turn food scraps into compost
2. when flattened they take up less space
3. gets recycled to save trees
4. contaminated
5. transform waste materials into new, useful products
7. where trash was sent before landfills
12. where solid waste is buried between layers of earth
13. a small piece of paper or discarded metal

Special thanks to Eve Miller & JoAnn Fishburn for this puzzle. Answers next issue.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Alice Cooper is one of the community gardeners in **Glenwood Green Acres** at 18th and Glenwood. She's been growing either on a farm or in a garden for most of her 82 years. Early on in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina, Alice would watch her mother at work, always eager to learn. From the time she was 8, Alice was picking cotton, and helping out in the fields. By 12, she was doing the same farm work as her mother. At 15, she was plowing as well.

Alice says now that the two things that mean the most to her are working and gardening. As she says, "If you took either away from me now, I'd be finished."

When she's out in her garden, it's almost as though she can "see the crops growing." Alice grows enough through the season to feed her family, put up plenty in the freezer for winter and still have some to give away. Her favorites are what she likes to eat most regularly - squash, greens, corn, string beans, lima beans, beets, tomatoes and sweet potatoes.

Alice has 2 plots, each 36' x 36', which keep her pretty busy. In July and August, some crops will be ready to harvest. She'll put in a second planting of collards and string beans as

Her favorite t hoe that also has a fork on th side. She's been using that noe "ever since I've been gardening up here." She uses it for everything, even digging (with the fork side). Alice only wears gloves when spreading fertilizer or manure. Otherwise she'd "rather have the feeling of the earth" on her hands.

Alice has always planted by the moon just as her parents and grandparents did. She plants root crops "at the dark of the moon," and plants those that grow above ground at the full moon. She never plants between the full moon and the new because "nothing much grows but stem or vine".

As Alice learned from her parents and grandparents, so she's passed her knowledge on to her eight children. Only two of her sons really like to garden and they give her a hand. What delights her now is watching two great-grands, ages 5 and 7, follow along behind her, asking lots of questions, just as she once did. She's planting up some buckets with peanuts, tomato, pepper, collard and cabbage for the older grand to take home and care for himself.

Alice Cooper's rule of thumb about almost anything, including gardening, is to use mother-wit. "It's what you take interest in and what you learn and put in your head. Then, nobody can take it from you - that's mother-wit".

How do you dig in the dirt? What are your stories and recipes for success? Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

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Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

July/August 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 12, No.7. September 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Susqhehanna Celebration

After four years of intensive greening, North Philadelphia's **Susquehanna** — the newest Greene Countrie Towne — will be ready for dedication celebrations on September 7th and 8th. Susquehanna joins **West Hagert, Point Breeze, West Shore** and **Francisville** as dedicated Philadelphia Green Greening Projects.

Different events are planned to center around the three Celebration Sites:

- On September 7th the celebrating will begin at the gateway garden at **21st & York** around 2:00 PM, and then move one block away to the **Dedication Site** at **Woodstock & Dauphin**. After a bus tour of the area, PHS Council members and Funders will arrive at Woodstock Street in time for Mayor W. Wilson Goode to dedicate Susquehanna the newest Greene Countrie Towne.
- On the morning of September 8th, **Zebiya Rigby** from Uganda will perform at a special Afro-American event with storytelling and weaving at the focal garden at **20th & Diamond**. This garden has a mural of Mount Kilimanjaro and plantings of grasses native to Africa.
- A Garden Party is planned for the afternoon of the 8th at the extensive gardens at **18th & Glenwood.**

Topiaries by PG

Janet Carter

Have you ever looked at a shrub and smiled to yourself because it looked just like an animal?..... Stop laughing.

In July the Education Department staff of Philadelphia Green loaded the Gardenmobile with shrubs of all shapes and sizes and went to **Francisville** and **Aspen Farms** to teach people to use their imaginations. They also brought plenty of pruners to help people transform their shrubs, like **Rena Ennis'** bird in flight and **Agnes Montgomery's** rabbit's head. This workshop was unique because no two people look at a shrub or a tree and see the same thing.

"When you look at this shrub, what do you see?" was the question repeated throughout the workshop. Pruners in hand, **Esther Williams** of Aspen Farms and **Carl Taylor** of Francisville wanted to know - "Where do I start?" " What do I do next?" "This looks like a pom-pom to me." Fun was the mood of the day as the Education staff walked folks through the fine points of topiary.

At **1911 Parrish Street**, the site of the first workshop, is a 15 foot upright juniper that leans somewhat. It now leans in a spiral and gets the attention of neighbors walking by. It took seven people under the guidance of Patricia's cane to achieve this work of art.

On the Vine

Harvest Show News

Be a part of the excitement that is generated each September at the **Harvest Show**. Experience the thrill of winning a ribbon by entering the best from your garden. Celebrate at the **Harvest Party** with good music, good food and good friends.

Feeling timid about entering something from your garden? Overcome your inhibitions and show off your gardening skills.

To enter, fill out and mail the registration card inside the Harvest Show booklet. We'll send you entry tags and information about registration.

Here are some hints to keep in mind...your blue ribbon vegetables are just waiting to go to the show!

Remember to:

- select vegetables of uniform size and good eating quality. The Harvest Show booklet will tell you how many to enter. Always bring extras in case some get damaged in transit. Select ones that have no spots or sign of disease.
- gather entries carefully. Be especially gentle with soft-skinned vegetables. Wash off loose soil. Some gardeners even wrap them in paper towels while transporting them.
- if you grow more than one variety of flowers and/or vegetables, consider entering BOUNTY BY THE BASKET or FLORAL BOUNTY. Be sure to bring a list of your specimens on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper.

Harvest Odyssey

If canning is your specialty, please remember the following:

- your entries must be heat sealed. Paraffin sealing is <u>not acceptable</u>, even for jellies.
- keep a ring on each jar.
- use uniform jars of one kind; for example, 3 jars of grape jelly all in the 1/2 pint jar.
- all jars must be CLEAR GLASS.
- jars should not be decorated.

Our younger gardeners can enter a special section made just for them. If you know a youngster who has grown a sunflower, tended vegetables or planted annuals, encourage them to enter the Show. For details of what they can enter, see *Cultivating Kids*, pages 6 & 7.

For Container Grown classes, please observe these guidelines:

- DO NOT DIG UP a plant and put it in a container right before the Show.
- For larger containers, water your entry AFTER you have brought it to the Show. DO NOT WATER right before right before you bring it out to the Show. It will be too heavy to move.
- bring containers that can be carried.
- plants must be in containers, not paper bags.
- clean containers and manicure plants before leaving them at the Show.
- entries that are infested with bugs will not be accepted.

Harvest Show Workshop

Join us for a **Harvest Show How-To** at the garden of **Blanche Epps, Pearl & Conestoga Streets**, on September 14th at 9:30 AM.

- Learn how to harvest your fruits and flowers, vegetables and herbs.
- Learn how to select blue ribbon specimens.
- Learn how to condition and transport the best of your garden to the show.
- Learn the right way to fill out entry tags.

Get the jump on all your friends!!

For more information and/or directions, call Flossie at 625-8280.

Please bring vegetables and flowers with you for practice.

WHAT'S WHAT -- Clearing up some confusion

Now's the time to take advantage of good supplies of seasonal fruits. If you preserve summer fruits or berries, be sure to bring them to the Harvest Show.

JAM is made from crushed fruit.

JELLY is made from fruit juice.

PRESERVES are made with whole or large pieces of fruit.

CONSERVE is made with two or more fruits as well as raisins and/or nuts.

MARMALADE is made with small pieces of fruit suspended in clear jelly and usually contains citrus.

Some classes in the Harvest Show call for a stem or a spray. Here's how to tell the difference between them.

If the Harvest Show booklet indicates that a **SPRAY** is required, then you will need to bring a main stem with side branches and flowers on all sides.
Examples: *dwarf marigolds, petunias and mums.*

A **STEM** is the main branch of a plant with leaves and a flower at the end.
Examples: *zinnia, cosmos, dahlia, non-dwarf marigold.*

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Upcoming Events

September 20	Thursday	5:30-8 PM	**Registration** for the Harvest Show
September 21	Friday	7:30-10 AM	**Registration** for Harvest Show
September 22	Saturday	10-5 12-4 6-8 PM	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 23	Sunday	10-5 12- 4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!
October 9	Tuesday	6-9 PM	**City Gardens Contest Awards Night** Port of History Museum Diane Allen will host all the winners of this year's contest.

Gardening Tips from All Over

Too Many Zucchini?

Here are a few suggestions from around the gardening world on how to deal with those squash that turned into baseball bats the week you forgot to go to the garden.

Johnney Rhubarb and Harley McGlade of Cheyenne, Wyoming announced the breakthrough development of an explosive new vegetable variety. They have crossed the genes of the Gas Plant with the Zucchini Plant and produced what they call the "zap'em zucchini".

McGlade, who is responsible for the breeding of the product, explained that the zap'em zucchini actually "explodes at a certain stage of maturity when it develops sufficient amounts of internal explosive gases.

"The zap'em zuke is the beginning of a whole new line of unique vegetables" explains Rhubarb, who is promoting the new discovery. "It's gonna put Wyoming on the map!"

The pair explained that the true purpose of the exploding zucchini is the elimination of the need to bother neighbors with surplus overgrown squash at harvest season. Rhubarb also pointed out that it scares the "bejeebers" out of vandals and other garden pests.

Here are a few more suggestions for excess huge zukes, brought to us courtesy of the radio show A Prairie Home Companion:

- keep one in your trunk and use it to block your tires.
- sneak into the Acme and slip it into the watermelon bin.
- wrap a shirt and tie around it, put a hat on top, and prop it up in the passenger seat of your car. (This lets you drive in the carpool lane without feeling guilty.)
- drill 3 holes in it and use it as a bowling ball.
- paint teeth at one end so it looks like an alligator, and use it to scare dogs out of your garden.

If you have any additional hints on how to deal with too much produce, please write to:
PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS,
325 Walnut St.
Phila, PA 19106

Bringing in the Houseplants

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle. In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs, as well as caterpillars. Wash off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

If you feel the need pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving in. Repeat treatment if necessary, still giving it time to air out.

Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Planting Bulbs

Flowers grown from bulbs reward us with a splash of spring color almost before anything else happens in the garden. They can be grown in very small places and with very little care.

For bulbs to bloom in the spring, they must be planted in the previous fall. This allows time for roots to form while the weather is still mild in the fall and early winter. Bulbs can be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen.

SOIL Most bulbs are left in the ground to bloom for many years without any attention, so what you do to the soil now is the most important part of planting bulbs. Dig in plenty of natural fertilizers like bone meal, wood ashes, well-rotted manure, leaf mold, and compost.

LAY OUT all the bulbs on top of the soil before planting, whether you're planting lots of them or only a few. This will give you an idea of how big an area to prepare for the amount you have.

DIG OUT THE SOIL to the necessary depth, and mix in plenty of bone meal and compost and whatever else you are adding to the soil to condition it. Carefully set the bulbs POINT SIDE UP at the bottom of the hole. Then fill the hole with the enriched soil, adding the smaller bulbs at the correct soil depth.

HOW DEEP? The first rule is to plant bulbs at least three times as deep as they are wide. This means that larger bulbs like daffodils and tulips are planted with the base of the bulb at six inches deep. Smaller bulbs like crocuses need only be three inches deep.

HOW CLOSE? Plant tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths about three inches apart, and crocuses a little closer. Plant in groups of three or more of a kind or color.

REMEMBER Any work you do this fall will be paid back a hundredfold next spring, when you're suddenly greeted with that welcome splash of color at the end of a dreary winter.

Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent hem from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Garden Cleanup

They're out there. Waiting. And they'll wait all winter if they have to. Then, just when you thought it was safe to go out in the garden in the spring, *they attack!!!*

They are the insects. If you don't want to add to your 1991 population of **insect and disease problems**, get out in the garden now and clean it up. NOW.

- Remove plants as they finish bearing. This should be an ongoing process all season long. If plants have a bad insect or disease problem, remove them completely from the garden and put out with the trash. Healthy plants can be tilled in or added to the compost pile.
- Include weeds in your search and destroy mission. Try to get the weeds from the surrounding area as well as in the garden.

What to Plant in September

FROM SEED OR BULBS
lettuce
daffodils & narcissus
radishes
tulips

DIVIDE
daylilies
peonies
phlox

Cultivating Kids

Now's the time to start getting ready for the Harvest Show! To be more fair to the kids, there's a special Youth Section for them to enter, where they compete against each other, rather than against the seasoned "grownups". Each catagory is then divided into preschool, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades10-12, and ungraded classes.
Some exhibits, like division 4 SCARECROWS, are by pre-registration only, and cannot be brought to the Show unannounced.

RULES AND INFORMATION

- **Exhibitor may make only one entry in each class.**
- No artificial plant material may be used.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS FOR KIDS TO ENTER

1. **PUMPKIN PALS.** Uncarved, uncut, painted pumpkin. Fresh and/or dried plant material may be used to embellish features.

2. **CRAFTY CREATURES.** A creature made from seeds, nuts, pods, cones, dried flowers and/or dried materials. No fresh material, paint, ribbon or candy permitted.

3. **MASK.** A mask of your favorite Martian. Title or name of subject required on 3 x 5 card. Mask not to exceed 18" in any direction. Must be equipped to be hung.

4. Pre-registered only. **SCI-FI SCARECROW.** For a garden on another planet. Limited to 8 entries.

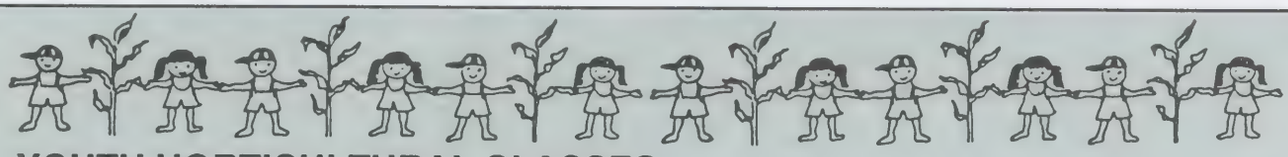
5. **PICNIC ON PLUTO.** An arrangement for a picnic on the farthest planet. All fresh plant material. No food items permitted. Not to exceed 12" in any direction. Accessories permitted.

6. **BLAST OFF INTO SPACE.** A creative arrangement of fresh and/or dried plant material. Accessories permitted. Not to exceed 12" in any direction.

7. **RETURN TO EARTH.** An arrangment created from a collection of roadside flowers and/or weeds. Fresh and/or dried plant material. No potted plants permittted. Not to exceed 12"

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more! Join the fun with your children from 12:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23.



YOUTH HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

8. **CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT.** Container not to exceed 8". One plant to a container.

9. **VEGETABLES.** Grown by exhibitor. To be displayed on paper plates supplied by committee.
   - A. Tomatoes, three specimens
   - B. Squash, three specimens
   - C. Cucumbers, three specimens
   - D. Peppers, three specimens
   - E. Eggplant, one specimen
   - F. Beans, twelve specimens
   - G. Beets, three speciments
   - H. Carrots, three specimens
   - I. Gourds, three specimens
   - J. Pumpkin, one of any variety
   - L. Melon, one of any variety
   - M. Any vegetable other than classes A through L, three specimens
   - N. Herbs, three specimens in water
   - O. Herb, one plant grown in a container
   - P. COLLECTION, five or more different vegetables, fruits and/or herbs. Herbs should be in water-filled containers supplied by committee. More than one of each variety permitted. Attractively displayed in a basket supplied by the exhibitor.

10. **SUNFLOWER.** One head, grown by exhibitor.

11. **DISH GARDEN.** An arrangement of two or more plants in a shallow container no larger than 12" in diameter. Small figures may be used.

12. **TERRARIUM.** Must have a cover and contain two or more growing plants. Not to exceed 18" in any direction.

13. **ANNUALS.** A collection of annuals. Five specimens, one or more kinds. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

14. **MARIGOLDS.** A collection of marigolds. Five specimens, one or more varieties. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

15. **CONTAINER GROWN.**
    a. Vegetables b. Annuals c. Fruits d. Herbs e. Any Other

16. **VINEGAR.** An herb vinegar to be judged for visual effect.

17. **PRESERVED PRODUCT.** One canned product. Judged for visual effect.
    All canned products must be heat sealed as appropriate in a hot water or pressure canner. Paraffin sealing is not acceptable.

Since 1971, **Betty Richardson** and her neighbors have been caring for a small community flower garden at **2731 Latona** in **King's Village**. In the early days, Mrs. Richardson was working double-shift as a nurse. She could only be in the garden on the weekends. So **Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Wilkinson** and other neighbors would take turns watering during the week. Since then some of her gardening neighbors have died, yet their memory remains, in the azaleas and roses that have been planted.

Mr. Bell reads his paper there every morning, while **Mr. Jenkins** brings his lunch and takes an afternoon nap from time to time. The garden is a special place for the whole neighborhood, full of bright flowers and quiet beauty.

Mrs. Richardson, at 87, is the garden's most active caregiver. She looks back over her long history of gardening with tremendous pleasure. Mrs. Richardson learned to garden cooperatively at an early age. At seven in Georgia, she would set plants in the ground wherever her mother had placed them. Her brother would water them in once she was done. Later in Detroit with her grandmother, having no yard or garden, she planted and tended flowers in a window box and several barrels in front of the house. Once she arrived at Latona Street 52 years ago, Mrs. Richardson began working along with her neighbors for the improvement of the community. Over the years, she's helped create a play lot and vegetable garden as well as the flower garden.

This past spring, Mrs. Richardson needed to tix up the sagging fence and planting beds. She received help from **Saeed Montazery**, a landscaper, who volunteered to do the heavy work. While they shored up the fence, moved azaleas and planted more flowers, Mrs. Richardson and Saeed became good gardening friends and learned from one another.

In the meantime, some dark clouds threatened the future of the neighborhood garden. It seemed like the City's Sideyard Program was going to turn ownership of 2731 Latona over to a woman who had just moved next door. The whole community rallied behind Mrs. Richardson and her neighbors. They circulated petitions and made phone calls to City Hall.

Mrs. Richardson and a whole contingent of supporters attended a special hearing on the matter. Tension was high. Everyone was thrilled to hear the final decision. The City awarded the garden to Mrs. Richardson and her neighbors!

Everything is back to normal on Latona Street these days. Mrs. Richardson gets out early to check on her "sweethearts" in the flower garden before going on the vegetable garden. She's looking for some winning Harvest Show entries. Mrs. Richardson has already chosen marigolds, sweet potatoes, okra, cabbage, collards and yard long beans as well. She is especially fond of her yard-long beans. She loves the taste and the fact that an Asian gardener she met at the Harvest Show three years ago gave her the original seed. Mrs. Richardson looks forward to seeing her other Philadelphia Green gardening friends at the Show.

If you have stories and recipes for success, call me at 625-8280.
Patricia Schrieber

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Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

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Vol. 12, No. 8. October 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

17th & Master

by Melinda Johnson

Along Master Street, between 17th & 18th, is a brand new garden. **Harry Henderson** and **Katie Dorsey**, along with **Tanya Hagen, Daniel Dorsey** and other neighbors, have worked together to create quite an eye-catching oasis.

In early spring the City's Department of Licenses and Inspections targeted this very large site for the Community Lot Beautification Program, co-sponsored with Philadelphia Green. At first no one from the neighborhood came forward to work on the garden project. **Mark Teller** and **Melinda Johnson** from **Philadelphia Green,** along with the **Youth Service Corps**, did most of the initial work. Because of the condition of the lot, everyone was doubtful that such a large piece of land could ever be successful as a new garden. In fact, the weeds had to be mowed down twice before construction of the garden could begin.

The very next day after the work crew left, however, the neighbors started to make the garden their own, moving planting beds, replanting flowers and shrubs, and adding several vegetable plots and circular brick paths. The gardeners wondered how PG staff would react to these changes, and if they would even recognize the lot.

Tanya Henderson, the neighbor in charge of flowers and brickwork, says the children come in to water and relax, but when it comes to transplanting she prefers to do it herself. **Harry Henderson** likes to nap in the garden after a hard day's work.

Judges from the City Gardens Contest visited the garden in mid-July. They were so impressed with what they saw that they sent yet another team of judges to see it in August, and recommended it for a prize in the Contest.

Melinda and Mark were overjoyed by the neighborhood's efforts to take charge, getting the community together to make the garden the success it is!

Neighbors in the 1700 block of Master Street made good use of recycled bricks found on the lot to edge planting beds in many different shapes and sizes.

Cultivating Kids

Apple-Head Dolls

Here's a little piece of folklore that kids of any age can make for themselves. Adult supervision is recommended, since sharp tools are needed.

In early days in America and other countries, stores were few and far between, and Ninja Turtles hadn't been discovered. Toys were made from things found around the house, like cornshucks, cloth, nuts, and apples. Apple-head doll making as we see in our country supposedly was taught to settlers by the Native Americans.

Here's what you need to start:
apples — firm, ripe ones work best, and any size or shape will do
paring knife
coat hangers for body frame
wire cutters to cut coathanger
lemon juice if you want the doll's face to be a light color

Here's what you'll need later to finish the doll:
adhesive tape
white glue
peas, beans or cloves for eyes
yarn, floss, wool or cotton for hair

What to do:

- Start with at least four apples. This will give you more faces to practice on.
- Peel the apples and remove the stem.
- With the paring knife, do some very simple cuts for the eyes and mouth, and shapings for cheeks and ears. These shapes will become exaggerated as the drying apple shrinks.
- If you want the apple to stay a light color, dip it in lemon juice.
- Cut the hook off the hanger and bend the remaining piece in half so it looks like a hairpin. Stick both points through the top of the apple until the turn of the hairpin sits in the apple where the stem used to be.
- Hang the apples by a string through the wire in a dry, airy place.

After about a week:

- Check the apples. Are the faces starting to look like what you want? Now's the time to start shaping them. Every few days you can take the eraser on the back of a pencil and press in on the eyes, ears, cheeks and any other features you want to emphasize. Do a little more molding and shaping each week until the results satisfy you.

After a month:

- When the apples are rubbery, they're about as done as they will get. If they are still sticky, wait a while longer. This usually takes a month or more, sometimes as long as six weeks here in Philadelphia. The apples will have shrunk to half their original size.
- Take any that you don't like and cut these up for hands and feet.
- Glue in beans or peas as eyes.
- Using the coathanger frame and adhesive tape, shape arms, legs and a body for the doll.
- Add hands, feet, hair and clothes as you see fit.

The **Community Recognition Dinner** is moving....to the Spring.
Our recognition event is taking on a new format, as well as a new location and a new time of year.
Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

On the Vine

MUM'S THE WORD

at

Longwood Gardens....

Join us for a trip to view the spectacular displays of chrysanthemums and for a guided tour of the gardens

Date: Thursday, November 8, 1990

Cost: $5.00 per person

Time: 12:15 to 5:30 PM

Depart from: The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street

---------- tear-off ----------

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $5 each.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

DEADLINE October 31

Make check or money order payable to **PHS** and return to:
Flossie Narducci
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Time was when neighbors on the **6100 block of Washington Avenue** were just nodding acquaintances, until.....Flower contagion hit the street, and the neighbors were goners. What could they do but cooperate, and have fun doing it?

Laura Sims, a Flower Committee member, innocently sent a Garden Block application to Philadelphia Green about 7 years ago. Before that time, only three or four neighbors were gardening in their front yards. Now almost every house, including one vacant, has a flower-filled garden.

During the first year, the Flower Committee had to remind people to water and pinch back the flowers. By the third year, all the neighbors were hooked.

The block has won quite a few prizes in the City Gardens Contest. Says **Laura Williams**, another committee member, "The contest has been lots of fun. Especially seeing neighbors preparing their gardens for the judges, even late into the night."

All the neighbors are proud of their accomplishments. At the beginning, few had gardening experience. People learned from each other, Philadelphia Green staff, and the contest judges. Some resisted advice on deadheading flowers. Until they saw how well the flowers grew. The Flower Committee, including **Carl Lacey, John Sims, Sam Pearson, Anne Sharpe, Grace Parham and Joy Younger,** see the fruits of their efforts throughout much of the year. The committee gets people start[illegible] in the spring. Using P[illegible]hia Green's Garden Sale as a kick-off event, the committee encourages many neighbors to participate. As soon as the car loads of flowers return from the sale, everyone gets busy planting.

The Washington Avenue Garden Block is filled with flowers of every color. Geraniums,vinca, impatiens, petunias, marigolds and celosias fill the street with their colorful faces. Window boxes hang on porch rails. Grecian urns decorate front steps. Flowers spill out from front yards to the curbs and nestle around street trees, planted by kids on the block.

The garden block has inspired much more. People are growing vegetables in their backyards. Folks on other nearby blocks are getting interested as well.

The Washington Avenue neighbors are also cultivating cooperation, caring and fellowship. **Dorothy Latney**, another Committee member is "thrilled at the concern neighbors show by helping those who are handicapped". When one neighbor is hospitalized, another just takes on the garden without being assigned. Neighbors contribute to a Benevolent Club which offers financial support for any family experiencing illness or loss of a loved one. The club also sponsors an annual Block picnic, with plenty of food, kids' activities, and an evening at the movies right on the street.

On Saturday, **October 6th**, the 6100 block of Washington Avenue will sponsor a Garden Block workshop, beginning at **1:00 p.m**. Come meet the folks who know that ***people who garden together grow together.***

Call me at 625-8280 to tell your gardening success stories.

Patricia Schrieber

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Neigh Proj 2141 N Howard
Phila PA 19122

Edited by Sally McCabe
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 12, No. 9 November 1990

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Susquehanna, a neighborhood in North Central Philadelphia extending from Lehigh to Norris, Broad to 22nd, is the fifth **Greene Countrie Towne** sponsored through Philadelphia Green.

In 1681, William Penn envisioned the City of Philadelphia as a "Greene Countrie Towne" where residents would see to it that "care would be taken to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared." In the latter part of this century, residents are reclaiming Penn's vision by bringing trees and gardens back into their urban surroundings.

The Susquehanna neighborhood was selected as a Greene Countrie Towne in 1985, as a target area for tying together the City's revitalization plans through the Office of Housing and Community Development and various other proposals cited in the City's official North Philadelphia Plan.

After more than four years of intensive greening and nearly 200 planting projects, Susquehanna was dedicated on September 7th, 1990.

Celebrations took place in each of the three major focal areas: **18th & Glenwood, 20th & Diamond,** and **21st & York.** The Mayor officially dedicated Susquehanna in a culminating ceremony at **Woodstock & Dauphin**, site of a beautiful sitting garden and the **Philadelphia Community Rehabilitation Corporation (PCRC)** offices.

Special events held as part of the celebrations included trolley tours of the area, African storytelling and weaving demonstrations at 20th & Diamond, and a Garden Party and pig roast at 18th & Glenwood.

The **Greene Countrie Towne Program** is funded by the **Pew Charitable Trusts.**

SUSQUEHANNA Greene Countrie Towne

A Community With A Vision

Susquehanna is home to many strong, active community leaders and groups. A shared concern over saving blocks from urban renewal demolition and the need to make blocks more livable motivated many community-based efforts over the past 15 years. Community development corporations like **Philadelphia Community Rehabilitation Corporation** (PCRC) and **Advocate Community Development Corporation** (ACDC) have been responsible for generating extensive neighborhood revitalization within this area. They have helped to inspire a renewed sense of community pride and reassurance that people, working together, can make a tremendous difference.

Like many of the neighborhood's leaders, **James Taylor, Willie Mae Bullock** and **Rachel Bagby** have seen what people can achieve in their community. They've seen negatives turned into positives, enemies into friends. They must now look hard to see the devastation beyond the gardens and tree-lined streets. They agree that "...words cannot express the kind of impact greening has had in this community. It means so much - to smell the cool breeze, the freshness of flowers, the fragrance of the earth, right here in our neighborhood."

21st & York Gateway Garden

This beautiful new garden represents a number of bridges in the neighborhood. It is the gateway between **West Hagert**, the very first Greene Countrie Towne and Susquehanna, the newest Greene Countrie Towne. Its lush country mural painted by the **Philadelphia Anti-Graffitti Network** helps to bridge the gap between the urban surroundings and the more rural backgrounds of many of the older residents. And because the garden is dedicated to the memory of three neighborhood children who died in a tragic fire last year, it connects the spirits of the young and the old gardeners within the neighborhood.

Diamond Acres -- 20th & Diamond

Near Susquehanna's south end lies **Diamond Acres**, known to some as **Mount Kilimanjaro** because of the mural with African mountains, plains and herds of wild animals and plantings of native African grasses and reeds. Among the major additions this year were a large Cedar of Lebanon tree and a shade structure fashioned after an African hut.

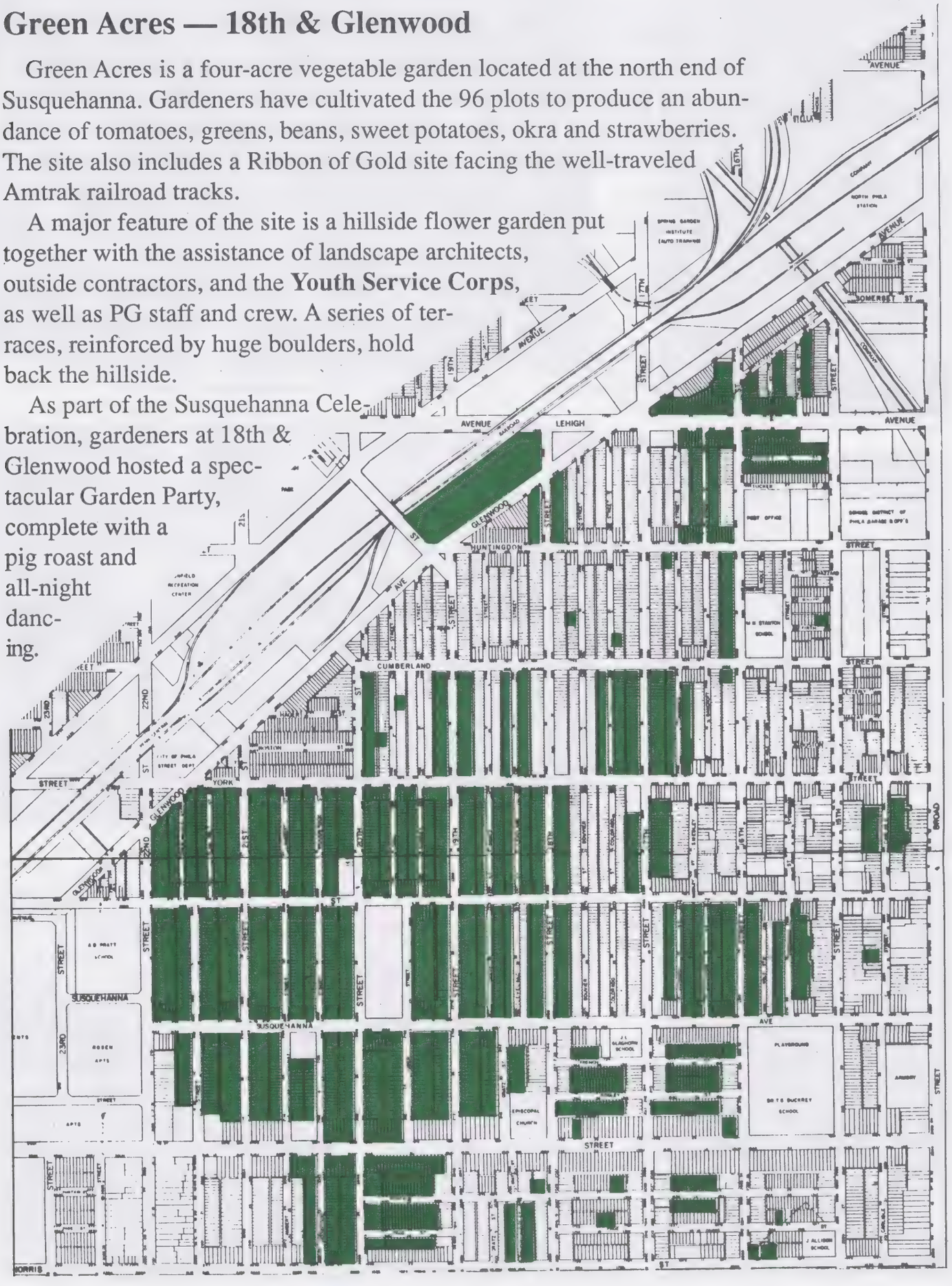
During the dedication festivities this garden was the site of African storytelling and weaving demonstrations by Zebya Rigby of Uganda.

Green Acres — 18th & Glenwood

Green Acres is a four-acre vegetable garden located at the north end of Susquehanna. Gardeners have cultivated the 96 plots to produce an abundance of tomatoes, greens, beans, sweet potatoes, okra and strawberries. The site also includes a Ribbon of Gold site facing the well-traveled Amtrak railroad tracks.

A major feature of the site is a hillside flower garden put together with the assistance of landscape architects, outside contractors, and the **Youth Service Corps**, as well as PG staff and crew. A series of terraces, reinforced by huge boulders, hold back the hillside.

As part of the Susquehanna Celebration, gardeners at 18th & Glenwood hosted a spectacular Garden Party, complete with a pig roast and all-night dancing.



MAIN LINE
PARTY RENTALS

1990 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

Garden Blocks

3rd **1800 Block of Ginnodo St.**
Della Dillard & Neighbors
2600 Block of North 31st Street
Alqueen White & Neighbors
3000 Block of W. Fountain Street
Elaine Perrett & Neighbors
2nd **1600 Block Patton Street**
Eunice Smith & Neighbors
1500 Block of W. Oakdale Street
Mrs. Leroy Williamson & Neighbors
2100 Block of Wharton Street
Estelle Gelzer & Neighbors
1st **3700 Block of North 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

Lotscape Beautification Program

3rd **15 E. Oxford Street**
Raim Bukovalli
1031 E. Berks Street
George Craigie
2nd **2656-58 North 8th Street**
Mrs. Dawson
1st **1720-24 W. Master Street**
Daniel Dorsey
(tie) **1300-04 North 15th Street**
Vivian & Larry Van Story

Community Vegetable Gardens (Small)

3rd **6th & Cambridge Street**
Bob Ingram & Neighbors
2313-15 N. 20th Street
Mary Lee Higgs & Neighbors
714 N. 17th Street
Muriel Ellis & Neighbors
2nd **46th & Linmore Streets**
Lucille Washington & Neighbors
21st & Dauphin Street
Rachel Bagby & Neighbors
Hansberry & Wayne Avenue
Esther Gardner & Neighbors
1st **20th & Susquehanna Street**
Alice Woods & Neighbors

Community Vegetable (Mid-Size)

3rd **Church Road & Baynton Street**
Chris Nicholson & Neighbors
44th & Parrish Streets
Jessie Carter & Neighbors
20th & Tioga Streets
Grover Willis & Neighbors
2nd **Ardleigh & Duval Streets**
Melba Davenport & Neighbors
28th & Cambria Streets
Annie Dee Hyman & Neighbors
1925-35 W. Pacific Street
Harold Smith & Neighbors
1st **2600 N. 6th Street**
Adariano LaPinia & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens (Large)

3rd **1204-1300 S. 26th Street**
Cynthia Anderson & Neighbors
1510 N. 58th Street
James Newman & Neighbors
2nd **1500 Grays Ferry Avenue**
Mattie Robbins & Neighbors
Pearl & Conestoga Streets
Blanche Epps & Neighbors
1st **3rd & Christian Street**
Libby Goldstein & Neighbors

First Year PG Community Gardens

3rd **21st & York Streets**
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garrett & Neighbors
2801-03 W. Diamond Street
William Dixon & Neighbors
2nd **3023 W. Page Street**
Mary Miller & Neighbors
3041-43 N. York Street
Colonial Banks & Neighbors
1st **3211-13 W. Dakota Street**
Maryetta Williams & Neighbors

Community Flower/Sitting Gardens (Small)

3rd **23rd and South Streets**
Gordon P. Henderson & Neighbors
2300 W. Sergeant Street
Darryl Hanblie & Neighbors
Cleveland & Dauphin Streets
Brice A. Thompson, Sr. & Neighbors
2414 N. Chadwick Street
Rosha DeCosta, Jane Freeman & Neighbors
2nd **5970 Lambert Street**
Olivia Blackwell & Neighbors
2501 W. Oxford Street
Lula Richards & Neighbors
Croskey Court -- 2212 Race Street
Joyce & Arlene Dascola & Neighbors
314 Emily Street
Alice Murray, Cathy Warnke & Neighbors
1st **2236 Wilder Street**
Shirley Gay & Neighbors

Community Flower/Sitting Garden (Mid-Size)

3rd **22nd & Sears**
David Pierce & Neighbors
49th & Florence Street
Beth Showell & Neighbors
1819-21 Ginnodo Street
Della Dillard & Neighbors
1816 Ginnodo Street, 19130
2nd **1700-02 N. Newkirk Street**
Daisy Singletary & Neighbors
2340 N. 29th Street
Jim Norris & Neighbors
1st **Sulford & Arch Streets**
Madeline Williams & Neighbors
(tie) **28th & Montgomery Streets**
Virginia Dowdy & Neighbors

Community Flower/Sitting Gardens (Large)
3rd **4800 Tackawanna Street**
Naomi Heard & Neighbors
Stapley-In-Germantown
Harriet Guignon & Neighbors
3901 N. 13th Street
Mary Walke & Neighbors
2nd **Friends of Kahn Park**
Connie Moore & Neighbors
2429-33 N. Marston Street
Lorraine Harris & Neighbors
1st **44th & Locust Street**
Adam Levine & Neighbors

Greenest Block in Town
3rd **2200 Block of N. Woodstock Street**
Helen Clowney & Neighbors
2000 Block of Champlost Street
Sharon Daniels & Neighbors
1885 A-I N. 27th Street
Dossie Dupree & Neighbors
5951-69 Champlost Street
Natalie Richardson & Neighbors
6100 Block of Washington Avenue
Laura Sims & Neighbors
2nd **5900 Block of Champlost Street**
Janell Mays & Neighbors
1700 Block of W. Edgley Street
Dollie Pinckney & Neighbors
5957-73 Lambert Street
Rene Gethers & Neighbors
5960-70 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell & Neighbors
1st **3500 Block of Chippendale Street**
Ann Morris & Neighbors

Community Combination Flower/Vegetable Gardens (Small)
3rd **2904 Diamond Street**
Isabella Washington & Neighbors
4115-19 Pennsgrove Street
Madeline Brundage & Neighbors
2nd **2301 N. Cleveland Street**
George Trotter, Dorothy Williams & Neighbors
6118 Callowhill Street
Lillie Singleton & Neighbors
1st **3222 W. Turner Street**
John & Florie Dotson & Neighbors

Community Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens (Mid-Size)
3rd **1259 N. Mascher Street**
Nelida Pena & Neighbors
840-42 Poplar Street
Ned McGuire & Neighbors
906-22 N. Leithgow Street
Angela Kalmus & Neighbors
1426-30 S. Taylor Street
A. Felton & Neighbors
2nd **Palethorpe & Norris Street**
Rev. Rysard Hermanowicz & Neighbors
15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors
4641 Westminster Avenue
Jean Reed & Neighbors
46th & Merion & Wyalusing Avenue
Elnora Jones, Hazel Parker & Neighbors
1st **17th & Westmoreland Avenue**
Mildred Peterkin & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens (Large)
3rd **18th & Glenwood Avenue**
James Taylor & Neighbors
25th & Tasker Streets
Josephine Jackson & Neighbors
2nd **Garden Club of Parkside**
Ida Douglas & Neighbors
Garden of Eatin'
Alta Felton & Neighbors
1st **Aspen Farms**
Hayward Ford & Neighbors

Container Gardens
3rd **Haroldine Trower**
1223 S. 21st St.

Senior Citizen Award
Margarita Pepe
4624 Pine Street, 19143

Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award
3211-13 W. Dakota Street
Maryetta Williams & Neighbors

Individual Vegetable Gardens (Mid-Size)
3rd **William & Dorothy Lofton**
3307 N. 21st Street

Individual Vegetable Gardens (Large)
1st **Charlotte Elsner**
319 S. 44th Street

Individual Flower Gardens (Small)
3rd **Bernie Talbot** 7325 Woodcrest Street
2nd **Jim LaRosa** 922 Catharine Street
1st **Barbara Truman** 5848 Larchwood Street

Individual Flower Garden (Mid-Size)
3rd **Mr. and Mrs. Gene Szymkowiak**
1914 Arthur Street
2nd **Veronica Whiten**
2646 N. 33rd Street
1st **Kenneth Chapman**
332 W. Logan Street

Individual Flower Gardens (Large)
3rd **JoAnn Fishburn**
1005 S. 49th Street
Jerome Hunter & Danielle Rosseau
4800 Chester Avenue
2nd **Vivian & Larry Van Story**
1500 W. Thompson Street

Individual Flower Gardens (Mini)
2nd **Pearl Romans**
663 N. 53rd Street
Rena Ennis
401 S. 51st Street

Individual Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens (Small)
2nd **Iris Brown** 2147 N. 2nd Street

SUSQUEHANNA

Greene Countrie Towne

September 7, 1990

Cultivating Kids

CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS Community Children's Gardens

3rd **Junior Garden of Gethsemane** **Tamika Epps and Kids**
FLOWERS, FRUIT, AND VEGETABLES ARE GROWN ORGANICALLY, AND A LITTLE ORCHARD OF ASSORTED FRUIT TREES PROVIDES INTEREST & VARIETY.

Callowhill Kids **Lillie Singleton & Kids**
FANTASTIC USE OF A TINY SPACE. CREATIVE CONTAINER GARDENING AT ITS BEST USING AN ASSORTMENT OF PLANTERS SUCH AS TUBS, TIRES, PAILS, EVEN BOOTS & SHOES TO HOLD FLOWERS & HERBS IN THIS JUNIOR GARDEN. A FISH POND CONTAINS WATER LILIES FOR AN ADDED AQUATIC TOUCH.

Project Rainbow **Sister Diana Cerchio & Kids**
A CONTAINER GARDEN IN THE MIDST OF A CONCRETE COURTYARD, THIS GARDEN IS PLANTED AND TENDED BY 3-5 YEAR OLDS UNDER THE GENTLE AND LOVING TEACHING OF SISTER MAUREEN AND SISTER DIANA. VEGE TABLES RANGE FROM CORN TO PUMPKINS TO RASPBERRIES TO SWEET POTATOES, AND EACH CONTAINER IS REPLANTED AFTER EACH HARVEST.

2nd **Seedy Acre Kids** **Sally McCabe & Bev Montgomery & Kids**
SEVENTEEN SMALL PLOTS TENDED BY GARDENERS RANGING FROM 6 TO14 YEARS OLD BRIM WITH VEGETABLES, HERBS, AND FLOWERS. THERE ARE TOUCHES LIKE A JOINT PLOT FOR GOURDS, SEEDS PLANTED BY THE LITTLE ONES; A COMMUNITY COMPOST PILE IS EDGED WITH PUMPKIN VINES; AND "ORPHAN" PLANTS ARE LEFT IN A BIRD BATH FOR ANYONE TO PLANT.

2062 W. Glenwood Avenue **Dorsha Mason & Kids**
THIS WELL MAINTAINED FLOWER GARDEN GIVES A WELCOMING APPEAR-ANCE TO THIS CHEERFUL CORNER OF THE CITY, WITH WATERFALL MURAL AND THE STEPPING STONES. CHILDREN IN CHARGE OF WATERING WITH HOSES AND BOTTLES PROUDLY IDENTIFY THEIR PLANTINGS.

ISI Caring Center **Kathy Batchelder & Kids**
A MINIATURE THEME GARDEN CALLED "COME TO OUR SENSES" GARDENED BY GREEN THUMBS FROM TODDLERS TO 9 YEAR OLDS. THE GARDEN IS DI-VIDED INTO THE FIVE SENSES, WITH PLANTS CHOSEN TO FIT THE THEME. PLANTS ARE "CHILD SIZED" AND OF AN AMUSING VARIETY. A CHILD-MADE SCARECROW GUARDS THIS CHARMING PLANTING.

1st **Hunter School Iris Brown & Kids, 2141 Howard St.**
"A TOP SPOT IN THE CONTEST" WAS THE JUDGES COMMENT ABOUT THIS GREEN OASIS EDGED WITH COLOR WITH A MURAL BACKDROP PAINTED BY THE CHILDREN. A FAVORITE ACTIVITY FOR THE GARDEN'S 7-11 YEAR OLDS WAS HARVESTING THEIR LUNCH OF ZUCCHINI, CARROTS, BEETS, AND ON-IONS. THE STONE WALKWAYS AND SEATING AREAS BETWEEN RAISED BEDS OF VEGETABLES ARE BORDERED BY ORNAMENTALS AND FLOWERS.

WINNERS Individual Children's Gardens

3rd	**John Trainer**	581 Pedley Road, 19128
	Ruth, David & Justin Phillippi	5426 N. Fairhill Street, 19120
	C.J. & Dinky Reilly	325 Sanger Street, 19120
2nd	**John, Shawn & Brendon Harris**	1251 N. 57th Street, 19131
	Agnes Montgomery	906 N. 4th Street, 19123
1st	**Ian Oelschlegel**	426 E. Sedgwick Street, 19119

On the Vine

1990 Harvest Show Community Gardens Sweepstakes Winners

SMALL GARDENS

1st	Bancroft School Garden Club	Katie Reuter & Kids	66 points
2nd	The Clement Family	Bob & Maye Clement	63 points
3rd	51st & Pine	Rena Ennis & Neighbors	48 points
	Garden of Life 2218 N. Woodstock	Willie Mae Clark & Kids	48 points
HM	840-42 Poplar Street	Ned McGuire	22 points

MEDIUM GARDENS

1st	4200 Sansom Brickyard Farm	Lorraine McGill & Neighbors	143 points
2nd	906-922 N. Leithgow Seedy Acres	Beverly Montgomery & Neighbors	118 points
3rd	2600 N. 6th Street Fairhill Community	Marina & Adariano LaPinia	84 points
HM	Church Lane & Baynton Streets	Chris Nicholson & Neighbors	33 points
	Merion & Wyalusing	Elnora Jones & Neighbors	22 points

LARGE GARDENS

1st	3rd & Christian Southwark/Queen Village	Libby Goldstein & Neighbors	167 points
2nd	Pearl & Conestoga Garden of Gethsemane	Blanche Epps	134 points
3rd	25th & Spruce Schuylkill River Park	Susan Hale & Neighbors	116 points
HM	25th & Dickinson Garden of Eatin'	Alta Felton & Neighbors	77 points
HM	49th & Aspen Aspen Farms	Hayward Ford & Neighbors	74 points

NEW GARDENS

1st	East 6th Street Community Togetherness Chester, PA	Frances Henderson & Neighbors	29 points

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Several children's gardens have sprouted in Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne, holding great promise for the neighborhood's future. The **Garden of Life** bursts with energy of a lively bunch of young 4-H gardeners. They practice recycling and composting. They nurture an orchard and plots of vegetables. The faces of the youngsters glow with pride over the wall mural created as a special tribute, showing each of them learning and growing in their garden. A few blocks away, **The Busy Bees** are growing gourds up an archway, tending a garden of barrels filled with many different crops. The mural at this garden carries the message of their intergenerational gardening, the young people learning by watching and working with the older generation.

Willie Mae Clark, Helen Clowney, and Hilda Armstrong are the three members of the older generation who provide guidance for these gardens. Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Clowney work with the Garden of Life and Mrs. Armstrong with the Busy Bees. These senior citizens know that children must be involved, loved and guided. Gardening provides a great environment for cultivating many of the skills that young people must learn. They see nature's cycles and develop a sense of responsibility, learning to sow seed and nurture the plants to maturity.

As the young people work, they talk about th[illegible], their dreams, their question[illegible]life. The women listen[illegible] as best they can, and show respect to the youngsters. The women remember what it was like being young, with wandering minds, and tremendous spurts of energy. Patience is their most powerful tool. They teach the youngsters gardening skills and expect them to help out in the gardens. They learn to harvest and prepare entries for both the Harvest Show and the Junior Flower Show. They know it's their job to pick up papers along the street.

The young gardeners attend workshops to spark their interest. They participated in a "Heritage Gardening Day" with the older gardeners at Glenwood Green Acres. They were excited to find peanuts growing under the ground. Digging up sweet potatoes at harvest gave them a whole new experience. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Clowney and Mrs. Armstrong admit how much they have learned themselves. Mrs. Armstrong feels they "have helped me to keep me more alert, motivated, connected, and on the ball with current events. Mrs. Clark says, "Our youth is the next generation and want to learn what to do and how to do things. We must be willing to teach so that our ways don't disappear." Mrs. Clowney knows "the importance of just being there for them. I love them all. I call them my kids."

These youngsters, with their fine leaders, have had quite an impact on their neighborhood. Residents can see how youngsters, working with their hands can help make things beautiful and be constructive. All three women are pleased when they hear they've done "a marvelous job with the kids."

Call me at 625-8280 to tell your gardening stories.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

November 1990

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 12, No.10. December 1990

Dear Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and Communty Gardeners:

One of the things Philadelphians are most proud of is our tradition of finding special places that exemplify our personal ideas about what makes Philadelphia a great city. This year's **Awards for Urban Design Excellence** at the **Foundation for Architecture** celebrated our rich tradition of architecture, spaces and streets by asking our members—and numerous Philadelphia leaders—to vote for the special places they loved most.

Five Awards of Merit were given, based on the most votes cast for favorite building, favorite interior space, favorite public space, favorite space, and favorite place not in any other catagory.

In addition, a special reviewing committee was convened in September to confer the **1990 Award of Excellence** for the place most characteristic of our city—and most accessible to—all Philadelphians. It was decided to award this prize to:

"All Philadelphians who devote such loving energy to the greening of Philadelphia."

Although wonderful organizations such as the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** are often the organizing force behind these efforts, the award particularly commends the thousands pf individuals who, every day of the year, generously contribute the time to make an important gesture to the pleasures of our being together in public places. The dedication and perseverence of these urban gardeners, who produce everything from beautifully planted window boxes and planters to full-scale community gardens, produces one of the most unique, ongoing and accessible public amenities in Philadelphia.

All Philadelphians are deeply appreciative of these efforts. The Foundation for Architecture is delighted to honor **you** with this award, as our way of saying thank you.

Sincerely,

John Higgins
Executive Director
The Foundation for Architecture

Success With Poinsettias

Directions from the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch

- Select plants with green foliage all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication that the plants have active, healthy roots.
- Look for plants that have small green buttons (cyanthia) in the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.
- When transporting the plants home, make sure they are protected from temperatures below 50°F. Chilling causes the leaves to drop.
- Place plants in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print. You should be able to observe a strong shadow with your hand.
- Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. The entire soil area should be saturated so that water seeps through the drain hole. Remember to discard excess water—never allow poinsettias to sit in water.
- Check plants daily—water when soil feels dry to the touch.
- Fertilize plants soon after bringing them home. They are without nutrients through the whole marketing process and will be pretty hungry. Use fertilizer according to the directions on the label.
- If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias need at least six hours of bright indirect light daily.
- Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.
- To prolong the bright colors, keep the temperature below 72° in the day and 60° at night.

On the Vine

A Gardener's Gala!

Brunch at the Flower Show
A new recognition event in the spring to celebrate the beginning of the gardening season with a look at the largest indoor flower show.
Hold the date March 17, 1991.
Invitations will be mailed in January.

THIS REPLACES THE RECOGNITION DINNER USUALLY HELD IN THE FALL

Cultivating Kids

You really don't need to be an artist to make your own "seed" greeting cards—all it takes is a little time, creativity and some seeds left over from your garden. You can make the cards funny or religious, plain or fancy. Make up a poem about planting seeds, find a nice nature quote from another writer, or simply say "Happy Holidays" and include instructions for planting the seeds.

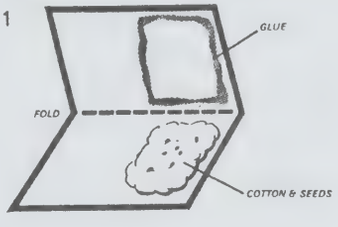
There are several ways to make seed cards.

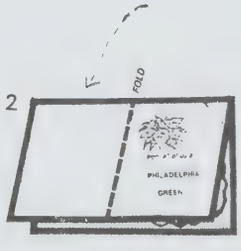
- Use seeds as the design for the picture on the front of the card.
- Draw or cut out a picture for the cover, and enclose plantable seeds inside as though the card were a seed packet.
- Do both.

Here's what you need:

- heavy paper
- glue stick or white glue and Q-tips
- pencil and eraser
- magic markers in assorted colors
- pictures from magazines, photos of your garden, or original art work
- scissors
- cotton balls
- seeds saved from your garden
- envelopes

FOLDING AND GLUING STEPS





What to do:

Make a or rough sketch of where everything goes

- take a piece of the paper and fold it in half. A regular 8 1/2" x 11" sheet becomes 8 1/2" x 5 1/2".
- Now fold this piece again to 4 1/2" x 5 1/2".

If you include seeds for planting, the planting instructions can go inside or on the back.

Decide in pencil where everything should go, since it's easier to erase when you change your mind. Draw the design on the front panel and the message inside.

Once you get it right, go for broke with markers, paint, pictures and seeds. Make <u>one</u> original, photocopying as many as you will need before decorating them. OR make each one totally different.

Seeds saved from your own garden make a very personal holiday gift. Glue seeds on as part of the design, or enclose them in the card in cotton as shown in the illustration.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Carla Henderson has lived across from **Aspen Farms Community Garden** at 49th and Aspen for 11 years. For all those years, Carla wanted to grow her own vegetables. She would gaze over the fence, with her daughter **Ramona**, drooling at the sight of those luscious vegetables.

Last year, Carla spoke with her neighbor **Jessie Evans**, Vice-President of the garden, about longing for a plot. The garden always had a long waiting list. Mrs. Evans listened and said she would talk with their President, **Hayward Ford**, to see if there were any drop-outs. Late in April this year, Carla had her own plot.

What Carla lacked in gardening experience, she supplied with the motivation to grow her own food. When Carla took over her plot, she lucked out with two very encouraging teachers, **Mr. Reagan** and **Mr. Brown**, to either side of her. Since Carla lacked money for fertilizer, Mr. Reagan advised digging the soil, turning it several times and always keeping the soil moist. She followed his instructions and the crops grew well. Mr. Brown showed her how to maintain her borders. He even cleared the edges for her

Carla's d r, Ramona, at eight years old, was another teacher. She and her friends already knew quite a bit about gardening from helping another gardener, **Mr. Clark**, in previous summers. Ramona and her big brother helped prepare the plot for plantings. Ramona was also the official harvester for mealtimes.

Carla chose her family's favorites: corn, tomatoes, squash, canteloupe, cucumbers, bush string beans, snow peas, collards and kale. The kale seeds came from another neighboring gardener, **Mr. Ben**. Her kids ate tomatoes like candy, with plenty left to share with neighbors.

Passionate about asparagus, Carla will set aside space for a good supply in future years. **Mrs. Brown** showed her how she can plant pole beans to grow up the corn stalks next year. Carla resisted Mr. Brown's urging to use mulch this year. She knows he'll never give up the cause, so she plans to mulch next year.

Carla's first season met her expectations. She was thrilled to see what she could do with a handful of seeds and a labor of love. Carla especially enjoyed the sharing: food with her family, friends and neighbors and lessons provided by her fellow gardeners.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 13, No.1. January/February 1991

Strawberry Mansion Greening Up

by Verlene Johnson

The greening of **Strawberry Mansion** was in high gear last fall. With winter just around the corner, the geraniums, impatiens, marigolds and mums began to fade and add interesting color to gardens, barrels, windowboxes and along some of the streets.

Lorraine Harris, Peggy Williams, Dorothy Johnson and neighbors of the **2400 block of N. Marston Street**, 2nd prize winners in the City Gardens Contest, were really busy planting bulbs by the dozens and putting their gardens to bed until spring.

Five Strawberry Mansion lotscapes were started in the fall, with four of them winning prizes in the City Gardens Contest.

3200 W. Dakota St., once a haven for trash and rusty cars, now hosts a sitting flower and vegetable garden, thanks to **Deleven** and **Maryetta Williams and neighbors.**

Colonial Banks, James Moore, Jessie Mack, Herbert Summers, Mr. Walker and neighbors of the **2400 block of N. 31st St.** laid brick pathways and built a form for a 10'x10' concrete slab to be used for a sitting and barbecue area. Mr. Banks took pride in constructing a rose trellis as a focal point and entranceway. The garden is located on the northeast corner of **31st & York**.

3000 block W. Page Street's Mary Miller, Billy Brown, Lydia Smith and neighbors worked hard last season to create a colorful prize-winning flower/ sitting garden.

William Dixon, Gilbert Tyree, Bert Caldwell, Margaret Dupree and **Mr. Watson and neighbors** of the **2100 block of N. 28th Street** organized and worked to develop the lot at **2801-03 W. Diamond St.** into a beautiful park.

New lotscapes started in the fall of 1990 were **2535 N. 29th St., 2141 N. Marston St., 2020 N. Etting St., 2727-31 W. Sedgley Ave.**, and **2501-05 N. Hollywood Street.**

photo by Ron Williams

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society proudly presented the Certificate of Merit to **Aspen Farms** gardeners at a ceremony held November 14, 1990. The garden at **49th & Aspen** is a major showpiece in the Philadelphia Green program and sets a standard of excellence among the community gardens in Philadelphia.

Hayward Ford, garden coordinator, is shown here accepting the award.

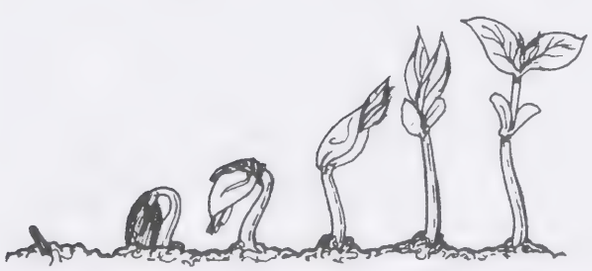
News for Seed Starters

January
ageratum
begonias
petunias
leeks
onions
parsley
celery
cauliflower
collards
chives

February
annuals
beets
broccoli
kale
celery
leeks
lettuce
onions
parsley
cabbage

March - indoors
broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
leeks
parsley
tomatoes

March - outdoors
leeks
lettuce
chinese cabbage
onion sets
peas
radishes
carrots
spinach
turnips
beets
herbs
potatoes
swiss chard
lawns



Community Service Announcement

When you need service or notice a problem needing attention, you can call the Streets Department directly during regular business hours.

Collection	
Trash & Recyclables	686-5560
Garbage (food waste)	686-5564
Illegal Dumping	
Clean-up	686-5560
Enforcement	686-3082
Philadelphia More Beautiful	978-3969
Pothole & Street Repair	686-5508
Street & Alley Lighting	592-5683
Abandoned Cars	
Mayor's Action Center	686-3000
Abandoned Houses/Littered Lots	
Licenses & Inspections	686-2463
Litter Enforcement	
Sanitation Police	686-3082
Litter Prevention Education	
PhilaPride	545-5823
Recycling Information	
Phila. Recycling Office	686-8298
Water Inlet Cleaning	592-6300

Flower Show Ticket Information

March 10 - 17, 1991
Sundays 10AM to 6PM
Mon-Sat 10AM - 9:30PM

Advance Sale	Adults	$ 9.75
	Children under 12	$ 5.25
General Admission	Adults	$10.50
	Children under 12	$ 5.25

Advance sale tickets may be purchased at the Horticultural Society until February 15, 1991, in groups of 10 or more.
For more info, call 625-8253.

On the Vine

A Gardeners' Gala

Join us on **Sunday, March 17th** for
Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Arrive early, tour the show treating yourself to an **ENDLESS SPRING**, and end your morning visit with Brunch in the Grand Ballroom.

Or.....begin the day with brunch and then stroll past waterfalls, winding canals and thousands of spectacular springtime blossoms. You'll be able to tiptoe through the tulips much easier with smaller crowds on Sunday morning.

The Flower Show Market Place features more than 100 vendors, many of whom offer bargains on this final day of the show.
Watch for invitations in the mail.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
Make your reservations early.

The $15.00 cost will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

Cultivating Kids

Children will sometimes understand the care of plants better if they think of plants having the same basic needs kids have.

SUNSHINE

AIR

WATER

FOOD

GOOD ROOTS

Children and plants can both get sick if they:

- Don't have enough light
- Have wet feet
- Get too much or too little food
- Don't get enough fresh air

The following experiment will help children see how plants need sunshine.

THE SUNSHINE EXPERIMENT

What you need:

a plant with large leaves
3 small pieces of black or thick paper
cut into shapes, like circles or squares
paper clips

What to do:

attach the pieces of paper to the leaves
using the paper clips
wait 5 days and remove the papers

What to look for:

What happened to the part of the leaf
that was covered?
How does the leaf look
three days after the paper is removed?
What causes this change?

Things to think about:

Can you think of an experiment to show
how sunlight might affect people?
What about water?
What about air?

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

When **Mary Lee Higgs** retired, she wondered how she'd like to spend her free time. Three years ago, she met **Rachel Bagby**, one of the **Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne** leaders. She listened while Mrs. Bagby talked about her own love of gardening and how gardens helped improve the neighborhood. Before long, Mary Lee Higgs was hooked. "The green just grabbed me. Now when I'm anywhere, even riding the bus, everything that looks good to me is green."

Mrs. Higgs adopted part of a large lot just north of Dauphin on 20th Street. She cleared the land and started planting seeds. Plenty of people stopped by, giving advice while she worked. As the seeds began to sprout, she says, "it was like having a baby." Mrs. Higgs browsed through bookstores and the library. She also relied on Mrs. Bagby for advice.

As a retired person, Mrs. Higgs grows food that's expensive to buy. She goes for green peppers, okra, eggplant, tomatoes, as well as white and yellow corn, hot and bell peppers, squash, beets and cabbage. Mrs. Higgs always plants enough to give some away. She has adopted three older neighbor women who are less active than she. Her four working daughters benefit as well, with her blanch freezing some of the harvest m.

Flowers fill the front of Mrs. Higgs' garden. She loves them for their beauty and because they screen the vegetables from view. She's very protective of her garden. One fellow hinted he might go over the fence to help himself some night last summer. Mrs. Higgs looked him straight in the eye and gave him a clear warning. He knew she was serious and left the garden alone.

Although winter is here, Mrs. Higgs has plans for spring. She bought seeds in the fall on a visit to Florida, and is requesting catalogs for the first time this year. She has visions of "a new look in the garden," with flowers in a round central bed and along the edges of the main walkway.

Mrs. Higgs admits to being a good cook. She's always just looked at food to get a sense of how to make it into a tasty dish. Mrs. Higgs cooks by instinct, using "a pinch of this and that."

Mary Lee's Eggplant Dish

Saute chunks or slices of onions and green peppers. Add eggplant (cut into small cubes) into saute. Cook for a while. Add chunks of tomatoes. Lightly salt and pepper. Sprinkle with garlic powder. Let everything cook down until tomatoes make a sauce. It's delicious.

Give me a call at 625-8280 if you'd like to talk about your gardening experiences.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 2 March 1991

Planting the Future, Inheriting the Harvest

The theme of the 1991 **PHILADELPHIA GREEN Flower Show Exhibit** features the continuing cycles involved in gardening: planting to harvesting, morning to evening, and the past's gardening heritage to tomorrow's gardeners.

Community gardeners rise early and stay out late to plant, cultivate and harvest the fruits of their labor. As they cultivate their produce, they also cultivate the gardeners of the future. Their children and grandchildren, and other young gardeners from the neighborhood, learn the tried and true methods handed down from generation to generation. Promoting the interest of youth in their environment is vitally important to the well-being of the community and the world.

Pass through this community garden bordered with street trees. Adults are instructing and guiding their gardening heirs through the season, from planting to the thrill of harvesting the end results. The young gardeners have plenty to do, watering the annuals, digging the perennials, and taking a break for lunch under the pergola.

Another high point to visit at the Flower Show is the **Lectures & Demostrations Series**, held daily throughout the week. All sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located next to the escalators behind the Trade Booths.

Learn basic flower arranging from **Allied Florists**, or exotic Oriental arranging from members of the **Ikebana Schools**.

Lectures and Demonstrations are held daily. For a complete list, see page 6 of this newsletter.

At the same time, the **Camera Shop, Inc.** will offer hands-on guidance to camera buffs at this year's Flower Show.

As you may know, photographing large displays or even a single flowe at the Civic Center can be a challeng ing experience. The folks from the Camera Shop will help you get just the right shot by offering special demonstrations throughout Show week. The demonstrations, conducted by experts from **Minolta** and **Kodak**, will take place next door to the Flower Arranging Demonstrations and Lectures, on the third level of Pennsylvania Hall.

1991
Philadelphia Flower Show
Philadelphia Civic Center

March 10-17

ENDLESS SPRING

Monday through Saturday
10 am to 9:30 pm
Sundays 10 am to 6 pm

Tickets on sale now at PHS, Ticketmaster, local garden centers and florists

For more information call (215) 625-8253 (24 hrs.)

Flower Show Posters

Help us spread the word about the upcoming Philadelphia Flower Show, "Endless Spring...New Days Dawning Around the World."

These colorful 8x10 posters and 4x6 stuffers will brighten up your local library, store window or bulletin board. To receive yours, call 625-8266 or stop by at PHS and pick up a handful.

Gift Certificates

Check around the house for any gift certificates you might have been given last year. Many people won them in the City Gardens Contest, or were awarded them for attending workshops. Cash them in now (before they expire) by sending in your orders.

Better yet, bring your gift certificates to the Flower Show and redeem them for seeds at the Burpee Trade Booth.

Junior Flower Show

The theme **of this year's show** is "Blooming Beyond Tomorrow." The dates are Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 16-18.

Bring in your entries on Tuesday, May 14, from 11-5.

If you would like to receive information about the Show, call 625-8280 and ask for a Junior Show booklet.

Gardeners' Gala

Hundreds of city gardeners will be celebrating Spring by attending a Brunch in the midst of the Flower Show. Watch for your invitation in the mail and join fellow growers at this Gardeners' Gala on Sunday, March 17th. The $15 cost of the ticket includes admission to the Flower Show AND the Brunch.

Master Composter Training

Many Pennsylvania communities are faced with a crisis of insufficient disposal facilities for various wastes. A large part of that waste stream is made up of organic wastes found around the home: leaves, food waste and grass clippings. Home composting is one practical method of handling everyday organic wastes from the kitchen or yard.

Philadelphia is planning a pilot Master Composter program. Master Composters are volunteers trained in basic compost biology, bin design and construction. After completing the five session course, these trained composters will act as volunteer resource people in their communities, responding to public requests for information.

If you are interested in participating in Master Composter training and are willing to provide 24 hours of community service over a one-year period, please call the Philadelphia Penn State Cooperative Extension office at 560-4150 for an application. Four weekly evening training sessions, as well as an all-day Saturday session are scheduled to begin the middle of March in Philadelphia. **The deadline to submit applications is March 4th.**

The Master Composting Education Program of Philadelphia is being sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, The Philadelphia Recycling Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

For more information, contact Marion Luongo, 560-4150.

On the Vine

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27 for the PG Spring Sale at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. At this annual event you'll be able to purchase annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs, and garden supplies at discount prices.

You can take advantage of these low prices **ONLY IF YOUR GROUP PRE-ORDERS.** There will be plants and garden supplies available on sale day, but these will be limited in quantity and not offered at the discount price.

Annuals and vegetables will be sold by the market pack. To insure a good price, we order from several different growers. Because of this, the number of plants in a market pack will vary (4-6 plants per market pack.)

Send your order form with check or money order (NO CASH!!!) payable to PHS to:

Spring Sale/Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

All orders must be picked up the day of the Sale. We cannot be responsible for those orders not picked up on time.

There will be additional annuals and vegetable transplants available for sale. However, to get the best price it is recommended that you pre-order.

A limited number of herbs, perennials, shrubs and trees will also be available on the day of the sale in the Cash & Carry area.

Seedy Information for March Gardeners

Seed Saving & Storage

Many of us with small gardens really don't have enough room to plant a whole pack of seeds. After all, how many tomato or pepper seedlings can you stuff into a 10'x10' space??

Here are a few suggestions for how to deal with what's left in the pack after the first spring planting.

- Trade half-full seed packs with other gardeners. Or plan ahead and agree before you buy them to split a particular envelope of seeds.
- Do succession planting. This means to plant a row of something like lettuce now, another in two weeks, another in two weeks, etc., so that you constantly have a new crop coming up while the last one is maturing. This will use up a pack of seeds over the course of the season.
- Save seeds from one year to the next. (See below.)

The best ways to save seeds from one year to the next:

- Keep leftover seeds in an airtight container. Tupperware and coffee cans with lids are ideal.
- **Moisture** is a major waster of seeds. Keep leftovers dry by pulling an inch of dessicant in the bottom of your airtight container. (A dessicant is a material that draws moisture out of the air. A high tech example is silica gel, available from most florists and garden centers for drying flowers. Low tech, and cheaper, is powdered milk.)
- The second leading killer of seeds is **heat**. The best temperature for storing seeds is 35-40° F. Conveniently enough, that's the temperature inside your refrigerator. The worst place to keep seeds is in the trunk of your car, where sunny day temperatures can often reach 150° F.
- Mice can also be a problem when storing seeds. Remember that a mouse won't go after something it can't smell, so stick to the airtight containers.
- Weevils are small beetle-like insects with long noses that love to eat the insides out of seeds, especially the larger ones like corn, beans and sunflowers. If you're saving your own seeds, put them in the freezer overnight (no longer, or you'll kill the seeds) in their airtight storage container. The cold temperatures will kill the bugs and their eggs so you need fear no weevil.

Testing Seeds

Most of us have packets or half-packets of seeds left over from last year. How can you tell if they're still any good? Here's a simple test:

Spread out about 20 seeds on a moist (not wet) paper towel, and roll it up into the shape of a tube. Place the tube in a plastic bag, and put the bag in a warm (not hot) place out of the sun. Unroll it after two week, and check how many have germinated. If less than 75%, or 14 seeds, have sprouted, your seed is too old and you probably should buy new ones.

Free Seed Info

FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!
Handouts and flyers are available on the following topics:

- **STARTING SEEDS INDOORS**
- **SENDING FOR FREE SEEDS**
- **SAVING SEEDS**

Call Eve at 625-8280 to ask for your free copies.

Spring is Sprung

Get your tools out of storage, waterproof your boots, and clean the bags of seed packets out of the back porch.

WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

Early to late March:

- carrots
- beets
- leeks
- lettuce
- onion sets
- peas
- radishes
- spinach
- turnips

Put out transplants:

- broccoli
- cabbage
- cauliflower
- celery
- chives
- collards
- leeks
- parsley

Many people have taken to starting their gardens on Good Friday, maybe because it's the first official holiday of the spring season. But Good Friday comes awfully early this year, so don't yield to temptation. **IT REALLY IS TOO SOON TO PUT OUT YOUR TOMATOES!!!** It's also too soon for beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, and eggplant.

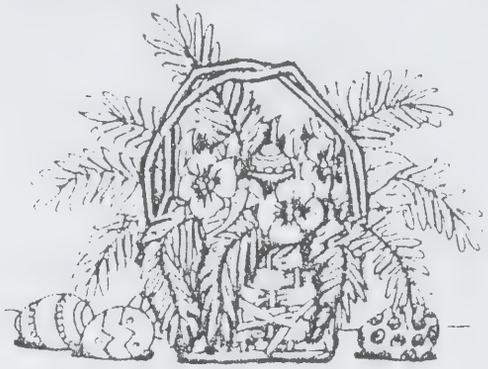
Plant an Easter Basket

A basket brimming with small plants, green and growing, is an inviting nest for decorated eggs at Easter, and a lovely presentation for houseplants anytime.

A favorite basket filled with small living plants is a natural Easter decoration. And depending on the plants, you can enjoy this basket garden for months, even years to come.

To prepare the basket, line it with a plastic bag or deep dish (the plastic container from a fast food salad bar is ideal.) Fill with potting soil. Some suggestions for plant material are: baby's tears, English ivy, herbs, small ferns like rabbit's foot, button, & maidenhair. To add color, include a pansy or Johnny-jump-up or a bright African violet. Vary textures and heights of plant material for more interest and contrast. But before planting, make sure the combination of plants has compatible lighting and moisture needs.

Use Spanish moss to trim basket edges and to form a nest to hold your cache of eggs.



An easy alternative is to select two or three of your favorite small houseplants, arrange them artistically in the basket, and disguise the tops of the pots with Spanish moss. To add a touch of spring, cut a few daffodils or tulips (an odd number gives the best effect), put the stems in a small plastic bag with water, and tuck the baggie between the pots. A branch of forced forsythia wrapped around the handle completes the effect. A perfect centerpiece for your Easter table.

1991 FLOWER SHOW LECTURES & DEMONSTRATIONS

Lectures and demonstrations on a variety of horticultural subjects will be conducted during the week of the Show. All sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located adjacent to the escalators behind the Trade Booth area.

This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted daily on pillars throughout the Show floor.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

11:30 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
1:00 **HORTICULTURE & GARDENING IN IRELAND** Sybill Connolly, Irish Tourist Bureau
2:30 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
4:00 **HOMEMADE WINES & HERBAL VINEGARS** Lorraine McGill, Brickyard Farms, Philadelphia

MONDAY, MARCH 11

11:00 - 5:00 **INTERNATIONAL FLORAL ARRANGING** By Invitation Only

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

11:00 **IKEBANA** Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
12:30 **IKEBANA** Phyllis Weeks, Ohara School of Ikebana
2:00 **IKEBANA** Yuri Moriuchi, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
3:30 **IKEBANA** Midori Tanimune, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
5:00 **IKEBANA** Adelaide Swanson, Ichiyo School of Ikebana

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Risher Van Horn, Ltd. Collegeville, PA
12:30 **IKEBANA** Mariko Ono, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Risher Van Horn, Ltd. Collegeville, PA
3:30 **ITALIAN FLORAL ARRANGING** Mimma & Aldo Alberti, San Remo, Italy
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Risher Van Horn, Ltd. Collegeville, PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Springfield Florists, Springfield, PA
and Valley Green Flowers & Gifts, Springhouse, PA
12:30 **DUTCH FLORAL ARRANGING** Flower Council of Holland
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Springfield Florists, Springfield, PA
and Valley Green Flowers & Gifts, Springhouse, PA
3:30 **IKEBANA** Bernice Makin, Ohara School of Ikebana
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Valley Green Flowers & Gifts, Springhouse, PA

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Allied Florists
12:30 **IKEBANA** S. Kawana & L. Toji, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Allied Florists
3:30 **FLORAL CONTRASTS ON THE EQUATOR** Kenya Horticultural Society
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Allied Florists
7:00 **WATER GARDENING CLINIC—POOLS, PONDS & PLANTS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

11:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Younger & Son, Inc., Lansdale, PA
12:30 **DAHLIAS** Jack Soret, Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society
2:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Younger & Son, Inc., Lansdale, PA
3:30 **IKEBANA** Ronell Douglass, Ohara School of Ikebana
5:00 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Younger & Son, Inc., Lansdale, PA

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

11:00 **FLORAL CONTRASTS ON THE EQUATOR** Kenya Horticultural Society
12:30 **FUN WITH FLOWERS** Allied Florists
2:00 **FLORAL CONTRASTS ON THE EQUATOR** Kenya Horticultural Society
3:30 **DAHLIAS** Jack Soret, Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

Meet the Challenge!

Participate in the 1991 Harvest Show by registering to receive **FREE** seeds for the Challenge Classes.

What is a Challenge Class?

All participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in this class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 19, or Friday, September 20.

The 1991 selections are:

Bush Bean 'Derby' is an All-America Selections Winner. It produces long, thin pods that remain tender up to 7" long. Strong, upright plants permit easy harvesting. Resistant to common bean mosaic, this variety is ready to pick about 57 days after sowing.

Marigold 'Hero Red' is a Dwarf Double French marigold. It produces 2 - 2 1/2 inch deep mahogany red flowers with gold accents, covering compact plants. It blooms approximately 10 weeks from sowing.

Cotton is a heritage heirloom crop that has been grown in this country for more than two centuries. It produces an attractive okra-like flower that turns to pink as it ages. The seedpod, or boll, bursts open when ripe to expose the cotton. The plant grows easily in a container, and the dried bolls can be used in making dried arrangements and wreaths.

---------- tear off ----------

I would like to enter the 1991 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me the following seeds:

_____ Bush Bean 'Derby'

_____ Marigold 'Hero Red'

_____ Cotton

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Please return to:
Flossie Narducci
CHALLENGE CLASS
325 Walnut Street
Phila PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Elizabeth McCardell has quite a story to tell about **Kauffman Green**, a tiny park, at the corner of Passyunk and Kauffman, near Catherine, in South Philadelphia. She and her husband, **Bill McCardell**, along with neighbors **Marvin Campbell**, **Larry** and **Marisa Sechuk**, **Richard and Laurie Scheff** and **Jim** and **Barbara Bergen** are park rescuers.

Late last summer, a repair job to an adjacent house wall sent men and digging equipment into the park, piling dirt, bricks, old tires and wires all over everything. According to Elizabeth, their once beautiful park "looked like a bombed out piece of property." The gardeners were devastated.

The group had nurtured the park from its conception, working with the Department of Recreation in the late 1970's to green-up a neighborhood vacant lot. They developed a low-maintenance plan for "a green spot, one without fences, that you just come upon." People gave time, bulbs, plants or all three. Over the years, the two Zelkova trees, the miscellaneous shrubs and groundcover grew. Once the groundcover took over, weed[illegible]me less frequent. The[illegible]ers added annuals in the s[illegible]d bulbs in the fall.

When the destruction began last August, the gardeners had no warning. The few people who were home dug up and saved a few plants - the Rose of Sharon, pyracantha, lily turf and ivy as well as a full-grown yew shrub. Meanwhile, the gardeners were very surprised at how many people walking by stopped to find out what was going on. Many were incensed to see the damage. The gardeners felt great that so many people they didn't even know really cared about the park.

Luckily, Kauffman Green has committed caretakers. They have been able to wield legal clout to get the cooperation from the building owner. He provided topsoil. So did Philadelphia Green. The neighbors hauled away all the debris, mixed the topsoil and replanted those plants that had been saved.

The gardeners are taking things in stride. As Elizabeth sees it, "the park is something we can bring back. It will take work, but we know it will grow again, that the park will be reborn." The gardeners are looking forward to spring when they'll take up where they left off in the fall.

Let us know if you have any shade-loving groundcovers or perennials to share with the gardeners of Kauffman Green. Tell us your own garden's story.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
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U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

March 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 3 April 1991

Workshops Around the Neighborhood

Wondering what you can do when it's still too early to get out there among the flowers? Seniors at **Emlen Arms** in Germantown and **Wilson Park** in South Philadelphia learned how to transfer their outdoor gardening urges into projects for beautifying their indoor surroundings.

Using baskets and their imaginations, nearly 50 people created centerpieces. Last year's flowers gave one more burst of life when they were recycled from gardens and roadsides into permanent dried arrangements of beauty and color.

Ornamental grasses provided waves of gold. Seedheads of black-eyed susans, teasel and silver-grey artemesia were scavenged from gardens and along the expressway. Splashes of color came from dyed foxtails, blue and purple statice, yarrow and strawflowers.

According to PG staff members **Deborah Hall** and **Janet Carter**, "People just don't know how much talent and creativity they really have, until they've been given the raw materials and the opportunity to make something with them."

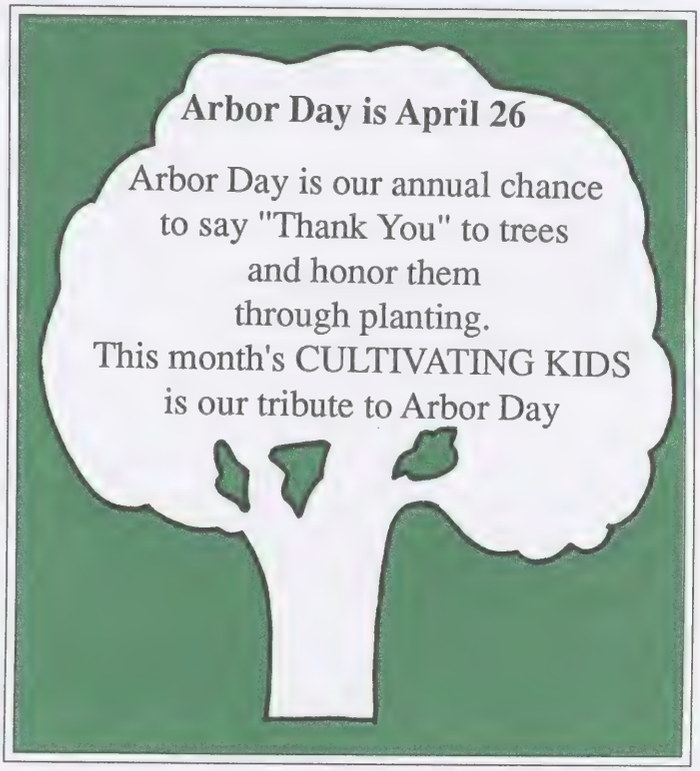
Samuel Hardmon, who usually just drives the bus to transport the seniors, joined them in a workshop for the first time, and discovered how creative he was. He left the center with a smile from ear to ear, saying, "Wow!! I didn't know I could do this!!"

Both the **Spruce Hill Garden Club** and **Norris Square** recently helped Philadelphia Green staff sponsor workshops in **Constructing Terrariums**.

Spruce Hill held their event at the **Home of the Merciful Savior** at **43rd & Baltimore**. Ten volunteers from the club, aided by local Boy Scout troops, paired up with children from the home to build miniature gardens in 1/2 gallon fish bowls.

At the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**, **Iris Brown** and **Tomasita Romero** helped 20 children to landscape their gardens, complete with plastic animals to nibble the leaves in the fishbowl jungles.

*More information is available about **Terrariums** and **Making Dried Arrangements**. Call Eve at 625-8280 for your free educational handouts.*


Arbor Day is April 26
Arbor Day is our annual chance
to say "Thank You" to trees
and honor them
through planting.
This month's CULTIVATING KIDS
is our tribute to Arbor Day

Back By Popular Demand!! *An Herb Workshop*

Join us for a workshop on growing herbs, making herb vinegars, and dressing up your plants to enter in the Harvest Show.

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 AM
at **Brickyard Farms Garden**
4249 Sansom St.

Take home a FREE HERB
to grow for the Harvest Show.

Registration is limited, so please call Flossie at 625-8280 to reserve your space.

Cool Season Crops to Plant in April

FROM SEED
(outdoors)

beets
carrots
corn
dill
gladiolus
kale
mustard
onions
parsnips
peas
potatoes
radishes
spinach
turnips

FROM TRANSPLANTS
(outdoors)

broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
clematis
daylilies
fruit trees
hardy herbs
leeks
lettuce
mint
pansies
raspberries
roses
strawberries
thyme

Land Trust Update

The Neighborhood Gardens Association/Philadelphia Land Trust was started in 1988 to make community gardens permanent in neighborhoods.

There are several ways to preserve a garden. One way is for the Land Trust to acquire the property and hold it for the gardeners for as long as they are willing to garden it. Another method is for the Land Trust to negotiate with the owner to obtain a long-term lease. Still another way is for the Land Trust to help the gardeners themselves to acquire and own the garden.

In the past three years, the Land Trust:

- Acquired its first three properties
- Started 10 other preservation projects on sites scattered across the city
- Saved eight community gardens from sale to developers
- Began to assist three groups to acquire and manage properties
- Assisted more than 70 groups and individuals nationwidewith insurance, real estate,property tax, and acquisition questions or concerns
- Initiated the Neighborhood Open Space Preservation Project in two neighborhoods

For more information about how NGA can help you preserve your garden, contact Bruce Wiggins, Executive Director, at 625-8264, or write to him at 325 Chestnut Street, Suite 411, Philadelphia PA 19106.

Transplanting in May & June

tomatoes
peppers
eggplant
collards
sweet potatoes
annual flowers
perennials

Tips for transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant
- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole.

One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label

GARDEN DAY Reminder

Don't forget Saturday, April 27 for the PG Spring Sale at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. At this annual event you'll be able to purchase annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs, and garden supplies at discount prices.

There will be additional annuals and vegetable transplants available for sale. However, to get the best price it is recommended that you pre-order.

A limited number of herbs, perennials, shrubs and trees will also be available on the day of the sale in the Cash & Carry area.

New Garden Sale Items

Volck Oil Spray

This product is a non-toxic oil that can be used either while plants are dormant or while they're actively growing. It works by smothering scale insects, mealybugs, whiteflies, red spider mites and certain other garden pests.

Nutri-Pak

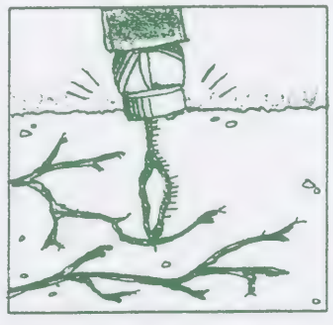
Nutri-Pak is an environmentally friendly general purpose fertilizer for trees and shrubs. It has been endorsed by Global Releaf as a fool-proof application method that is designed to be safe for the environment.

To apply, simply dig or pry a hole in the soil next to the plant, the depth of the shovel. Drop the packet into the hole and close it back up.

Here are some of the advantages of this new product.
- provides nutrients for 5 years with one application.
- eliminates danger of burning young roots.
- reduces over- and under-fertilizing.
- increases growth rates up to 25%.
- requires no measuring, mixing or mess.

Nutri-Pak will be available at the Garden Sale on April 27th.

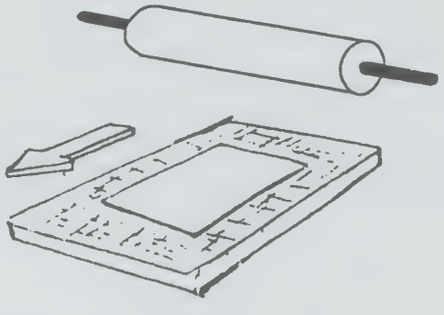
...pry open the soil and drop in a Nutri-pak.



A tap of your heel to cover the hole and you're done!.

CULTIVATING KIDS

Making Recycled Paper



Materials Needed: Newspaper, buckets or bowls, hand beater (or blender), pieces of screen or felt, plastic wrap, rolling pin or wood block. This project will span three days or more.

Cut or tear the newspaper into small pieces (no larger than 1" x 1" or 1/2" x 2" strips) and place into a bucket or bowl with water (l part paper & 2 parts water) and let it soak overnight.

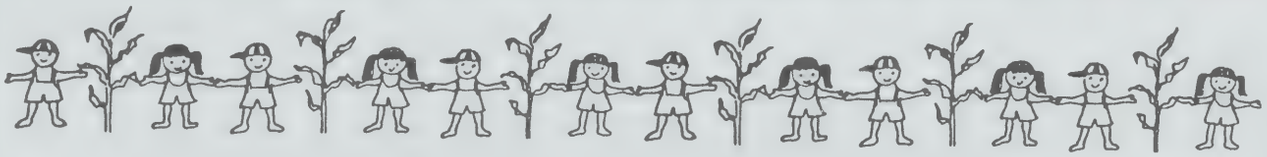
The next day, use the hand beater (or blender) to "pulp" the fibers.

Starch can be added for rigidity. Flower petals, leaves, cloth, fibers, dye, or other materials can be added for color and texture.

Place the wet pulp onto a screen or piece of felt and place between a folded piece of plastic wrap. Press with a rolling pin or wood block until it covers the piece of felt or screen. Then push towards the edges until most of the water is pressed out.

Let dry for a day or two.

Use the paper for an art project or use it to write a letter to a neighbor or relative explaining how the paper was made and the importance of recycling. (Note: if fibers are not used, paper may be very brittle. Use caution while decorating).

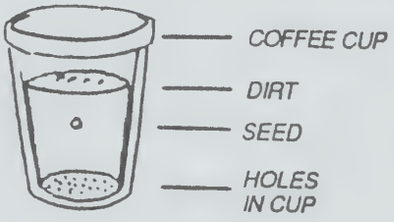


A Tree from a Seed

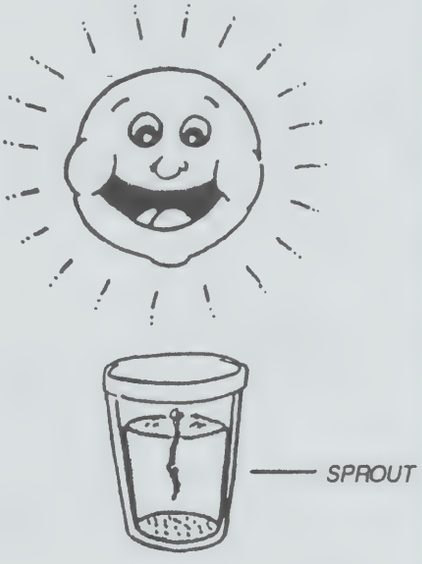
A Class Activity for Grades K-6

What do acorns, avocado pits and walnuts have in common? They're all tree seeds. Tree seeds, like all seeds, come in different colors, shapes and sizes. How many different tree seeds can you think of? Go on a tree seed hunt. Explore the area around several trees to find seeds. Line the seeds up by size from largest to smallest. Compare their shapes and colors. What kind of trees will grow from each seed?

Examine each seed and notice its different parts. The SEED COAT covers the outside of the seed. Inside the seed coat is the EMBRYO. The two largest parts of the embryo are the COTYLEDONS (kot-i-LEE-duns). The young trunk and root of the tree will grow between the cotyledons.



When a seed grows, we say it germinates. Find out how long it takes a fruit tree seed to germinate: dry a seed from a fresh lemon, orange, avocado, or other fruit. Soak the seed in a glass of water for a day or two. Plant it in dirt in a cup or pot with holes in the bottom for drainage. Keep the dirt moist. Before long - with sun, water and loving care - the seed will start to grow.



A special thanks for this activity to:

TREEPEOPLE
School Education Program
12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
(818) 753-4620

Environmental Leadership Program
Sponsored by:
L.A. RESOURCE PROGRAM
City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation

Arbor Day Card Contest

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society/
Philadelphia Green Program
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-625-8280

Deadline: **April 12, 1991 at 3:00 PM**

Theme: ARBOR DAY/ The Many Gifts of Trees

Rules:

- The card must include both words and pictures that reflect the Arbor Day theme.
- The words must be in the form of a poem or a short story.
- The paper must be 11 inches x 8 1/2 inches. It can be folded in half-card style or left open.

- Student's name, address, age, phone number and school must be printed on the back.
- Posters will be returned to contestants by written request only.

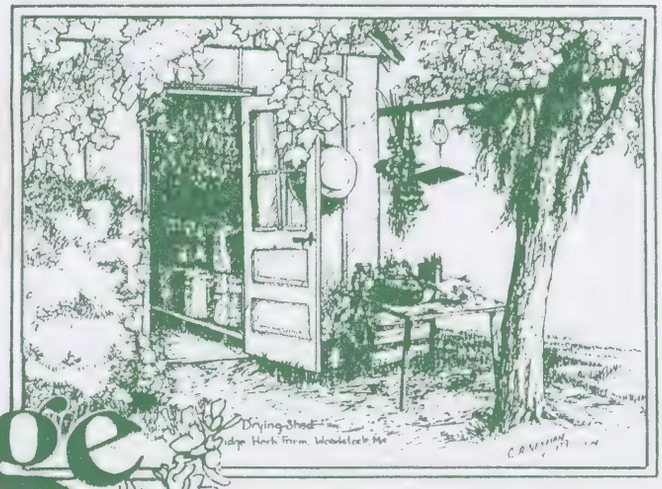
Prizes: The winning card will be displayed in an Arbor Day exhibit. The winner will receive a book about trees.

More info: If you have any questions, please call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Spice up Your Spring!

Join us for a tour of beautiful **Stillridge Herb Farm** in Woodstock, Maryland. The visit includes a tour of the gardens and greenhouse, a lecture of growing herbs, and an herbal luncheon.

Date:	Thursday, May 23rd
Cost:	$12.50 per person
Time:	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Depart from:	The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 325 Walnut Street



Stillridge
HERB FARM

For information about attending an herb workshop here in Philadelphia, please see page 2.

tear off

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $12.50 per person.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

DEADLINE Wednesday, May 15

Make check or money order payable to **PHS** and return to:
Flossie Narducci
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

When **Gertrude Dyer's** mother used to invite her to go to the Flower Show, Gertrude would run the other way. "Flowers? What would I want with flowers, and dirt? "

Gertrude is now one of the lead gardeners at **Johnson Homes** in North Philadelphia. Second in command to **Nellie Reynolds**, chair of the Tenant Council, Gertrude is the person everyone goes to if they have a gardening question. She finds her change in attitude pretty remarkable.

In 1988, the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) recommended that Philadelphia Green (PG) work with the tenants of Johnson Homes as part of a joint PHA-PG project. Gertrude was named one of the contact people. When she told PG staff she couldn't grow anything, they said, "Sure you can." So she tried.

Beginning with the first meeting with PG, Gertrude listened carefully, took notes and passed the information on to the others. When she's not sure, she just calls up **Deborah Hall**, PG Staff, and asks.

All the gardening at Johnson Homes over the past three years has made a [illegible]erence. "Everything looks [illegible]nd more beautiful." Gertr[illegible]ly likes to garden nov[illegible]ps her occupied. Since her h[illegible]auses her to avoid being in the sun, she goes out in early morning to water, first her side of the block, then the other. What she doesn't get to early on, she and Nellie will water in the late afternoon.

Though Gertrude now has a plot at the Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden, flowers are still her favorite. Last summer, Gertrude had Sweet Williams, Cannas, Iris, and a rose bush growing up the trellis. She's pleased with the way she designed her flower beds. Gertrude is proud of her work, especially when she hears people walking by, admiring her garden.

Gertrude is happy that everyone who started with gardening when she did kept things growing. Last year, all the neighbors in her section decided to add a barbecue to their picnic area. So now a barbecue pit shares the area along with benches and a picnic table.

Gertrude admits to talking to her plants. One day, one of the plants was bending over, "looking like it was about to croak." After ignoring it for a couple of days, she saw it was perking up. Then she sang its praises. " I also praise the Sweet William and the rose bush. I love and admire them. I have to give them and myself credit. Yes, indeed."

Tell us your own gardening story. Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

April 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 4 May 1991

Around the Neighborhood

Strawberry Mansion Update

by Ignatius Weekes

Gardeners in **Strawberry Mansion** participated in a very successful pruning workshop this spring. It was a first attempt at restoring an old sitting garden at **Tanner Triangle**, located at **28th & Diamond.**

Because the shrubs in the triangle were planted many years ago and then allowed to grow however they pleased, they had completely taken over the area. The older yews had gotten so big that people were afraid to walk past the garden.

Participants in the workshop, including **Evelyn Forbes, Lottie Glover, Charlotte Lewis**, and **John & Florrie Dotson**, worked with other enthusiastic members of the community and Philadelphia Green staff **Ignatius Weekes** and **Verlene Johnson** to reclaim their garden. Because most of the people there are already experienced gardeners, they were able to master some advanced techniques for dealing with wayward and overgrown shrubs. They then took their new knowledge and new tools on the road, cleaning out other neighborhood gardens' mature plant material.

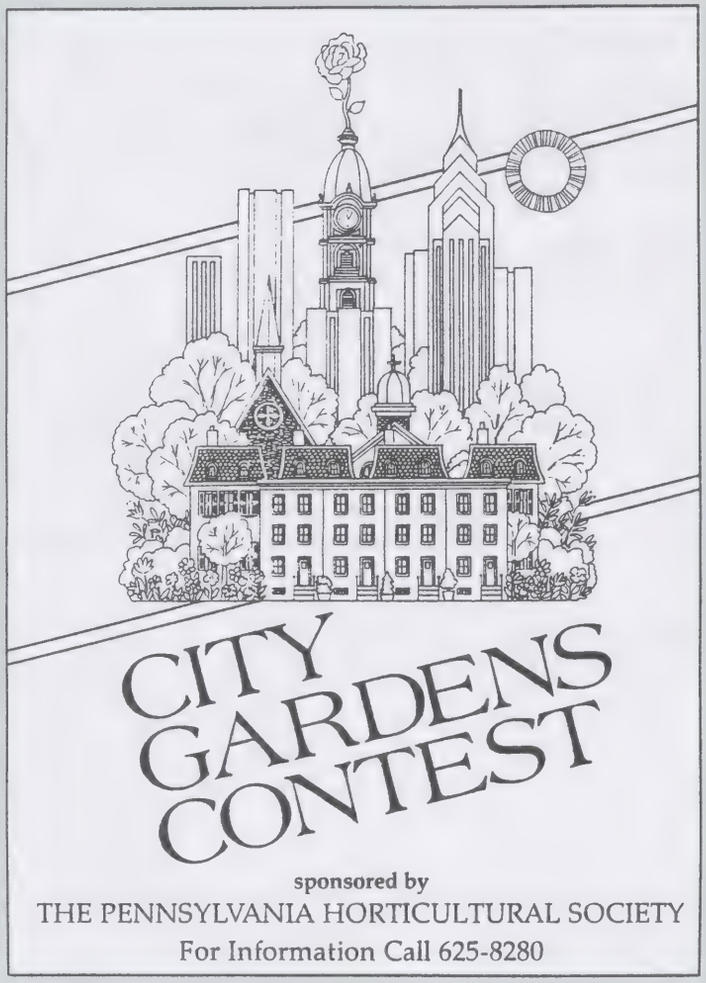
Strawberry Mansion is scheduled to be dedicated as the newest Greene Countrie Towne in October of 1992.

Pew Awards Grant to Save Gardens

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) has been awarded a three-year grant from the **Pew Charitable Trusts** to continue their work in preserving gardens. The money will go towards purchasing the gardens and holding them for the gardeners to use as long as they want. Gardeners interested in taking advantage of this program should call NGA at 625-8264.

First Tomato on the Vine Contest

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA), the organization that works to save gardens from being sold, is sponsoring a
First Tomato on the Vine Contest.
A $10 gift certificate will be awarded to the community gardener who produces the first vine-ripened tomato of the season. An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine.
Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomato is ripe.



Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing thru the tulips or high-stepping among tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini.

Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard.

Be a Contender:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the CGC entry blank in the mail.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie at 625-8280 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

Planting in May & June

Plant seeds:

annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
cucumbers
herbs
lettuce
peanuts
squash

Plant transplants:

broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:

peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Tips for transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant
- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole.

One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label.

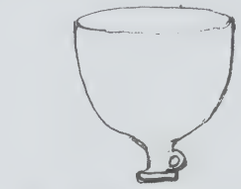
CULTIVATING KIDS

1991 Junior Flower Show -- "Blooming Beyond Tomorrow"

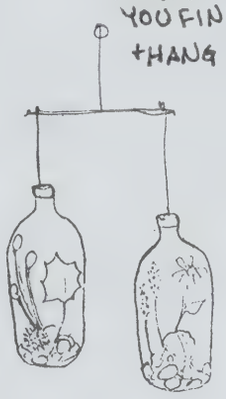
"Mistress Mary, quite contrary, how WILL your garden grow?" What is our environmental future? There are many questions and concerns about the future of the earth, from the green-house effect, to acid rain, to the depletion of the rainforests and fossil fuels. We'd like to make our children aware of the effects their actions have on the future. Hopefully the theme "Blooming Beyond Tomorrow" will allow you to have fun while exploring some of the environmental issues of our time.

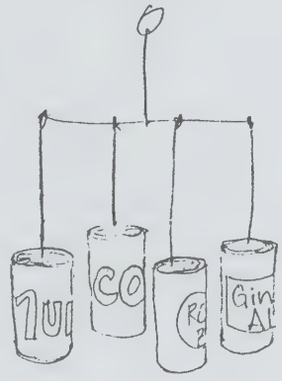
Something new this year that kids can enter is the **GARDEN ORNAMENT** Class. They can make wind chimes & sculpture, a mobile, birdhouse or bird bath for the garden, using only recycled materials.

Here are some ideas:



BIRD BATH FOR A SMALL BIRD MADE FROM A BLEACH BOTTLE

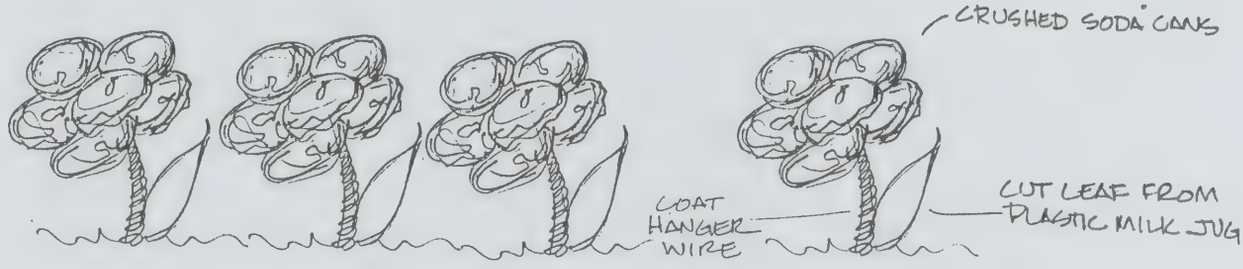




SODA CAN WIND CHIMES

SCULPTURE

- Use cans, bottles, coat hangers, plastic cups...anything that will hold up to rain, sleet, snow & hail.
- Glue or wire the pieces together to form a sculpture.
- Keep in mind elements of art that are important for aesthetics -- color, texture, pattern, form.



Junior Flower Show entries are accepted on Tues., May 14 , 11 AM to 5 PM.
The Show is open Thursday & Friday, May 16 & 17 from 9:30 AM - 5 PM
and on Saturday, May 18 from 10 AM - 12:30 PM

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Signs of nature pop out all around the **HMS School** in West Philadelphia. A newly planted Franklinia tree graces the outdoor garden area. Flower arrangements decorate dining room tables. Houseplants fill the halls, cared for by the housekeeping staff. Terrariums flourish on bedroom windowsills.

The HMS School offers a special education program for children with cerebral palsy. Most get around in wheelchairs. For all of them, challenge is a key element in their lives. Their teachers provide the students with opportunities for gaining an understanding of who they are and how they connect with their surroundings. Gardening is a wonderful way to bring it all together.

The students at HMS including **Brian Little, Peter Dean, Pam Price, Jason Segraves, Christine Johnson, Angie Lightner and Jonathan Smith** love to get their hands in the dirt. They feel it, they watch seeds sprout. They have great curiosity and enthusiasm about growing things. Their teachers collaborate in learning about plants and nature. **Phyllis Dupuis, Jean Campana, Elaine Barrett, E[illegible]eddick, Mary Duell and [illegible] Diggs** all love digging in th[illegible] themselves. Any plant activity [illegible]tes directly to their classroom programs. Several classes might be involved together in one project, like the tree planting project they did with Philadelphia Green's **Mindy Maslin**.

There's lots of social interaction around HMS plant activities. One favorite is the terrarium workshop. A local Boy Scout Troop, the **Spruce Hill Garden Club**, and Philadelphia Green staff work with the students one-on-one. Youngsters who have use of arms or hands measure the dirt and handle the plants. Those whose physical abilities are more limited, rely on their powers of observation to check out what's happening.

With summer coming on, the HMS gardeners are preparing to spruce up their outdoor garden area. Teachers and students prepare hanging baskets for the pergola. Those students who are more mobile are responsible for watering the baskets.

HMS hopes to develop the whole backyard into a natural playground, complete with nature trail. If you have any plants, stones or other natural objects to share with HMS, call **Phyllis Dupuis**, Coordinator of Special Programs, at 222-2566.

Patricia Schrieber

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U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
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Edited by Sally McCabe
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May 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 5. June 1991

Welcome New Groups!

L & I LOTSCAPES

3114 Dickinson -	Stinger Square
1730 Ellsworth -	Learlie Blount
2127-29 Venango -	Doris Allen
1406-12 Hancock -	Sister Diana
1120 South 23rd -	Wendy Solomon
1821 North 26th Street -	Dorothy Williams
1347 W. Somerset -	Marilyn Porter
1343 W. Somerset -	Willie Mitchell
1309-13 North 16th Street -	Charlie Gadson
1549 Thompson -	Vivian Van Story
1303 North 15th Street -	K. Yong Kim
3035 Euclid Avenue -	Dorothy Dunmore
2113 Pierce -	Patricia Harris
250 E. Richmond -	Hasiji Risilia
1529-33 E. Montgomery -	Donna Tomlinson
1856 Tulip -	Charlene Vodopija
300 E. Girard -	William Mohollen
624-26 Master -	Mary Walke
1229-31 N. 15th -	Vivian Van Story
1522-4 N. 2nd -	Ingeborg Borlack
3004 E. Tasker -	Annie Aiker
5611-13 Litchfield -	Blanche Epps
2138-40 Natrona -	Eddie Hines
4931 Germantown -	Evangeline Foster
1800 N. 28th -	Loretta Barlow
2301 N. 10th -	Elenore Spicer
1242-44 N. 16th -	Halima Bey
2519-25 Warnock -	Lily Yeh
2756 Opal -	Sheila Bryant
2007-13 Crosky -	Robert Lee
2036 N. Lambert -	Olivia Weeks
2652-54 N. 7th -	Geneva & Richard Ballard
1538-40 N. Franklin -	Mike & Lenora Richbow

(This is not a complete list. We will list more groups in the July/August issue.)

STRAWBERRY MANSION

Lotscapes

2700 Block W. French Street -	Lenora Evans
2141 N. Marston Street -	Lenora Evans
2100 N. Marston Street -	Patricia Oliver
2727-29 W. Sedgley Avenue -	Patricia Oliver
2020 N. Etting Street -	Ellen Johnson
2501-03 N. Holly -	Kathy Blount
2535 N. 29th -	Otis Cummings

Garden Blocks

1600 North 29th Street -	Silvester Griffin
1900 North 30th Street -	Mary James
2100 N. Marston Street -	Mae Davis
3300 W. Cumberland -	Delores Butler
2100 North 28th Street -	William Dixon
2000 N. Etting Street -	Ellen Johnson
2500 N. Holly -	Kathy Blount
2500 N. 29th -	Otis Cummings

Rebecca Melvin and her 10-foot cotton plant are featured this month on page 4. Photo credit Ann Reed

Jazz at Point Breeze FREE

Rufus Harley & Messiah Patton

Father's Day Celebration

Point Breeze Federation Concert Garden
21st & Ellsworth
3:00 Sunday, June 16th FREE

1991 Mellon PSFS Jazz Festival dedicated to Mickey Roker
Presented with Point Breeze Federation, Inc. and Settlement Music School

June Hints

- Prune shrubs after they bloom
- Divide, plant, and fertilize perennials
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming
- Plant annuals
- Plant tender bulbs
- Apply mulch to plantings
- Check for insects and diseases
- Trim and plant ground covers
- Plant perennials and biennials for bloom next year
- Stake tall plants as they start to grow
- Remove dead flowers from plants to encourage new blooms

Plant Deep

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care they get enough water during this stage of development.

What to Plant

Plant from seed:
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
collards
corn
cucumbers
dahlias
herbs
okra
melons
pumpkins
squash

Plant from Transplants
broccoli
brussels sprouts
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
eggplant
herbs
peppers
sweet potatoes
tomatoes

DEADLINE REMINDER

If you haven't yet registered your gardening project for the **City Gardens Contest**, call 625-8280 for a form immediately.

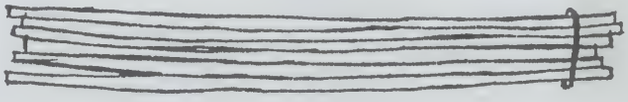
Cultivating Kids

Building a Tepee With Your Child

Does you child know the story of Jack-And-The-Beanstalk? How would you like to grow a tower of pole beans on a tepee? It can be big enough for your child to climb inside, or small enough to fit in a container.

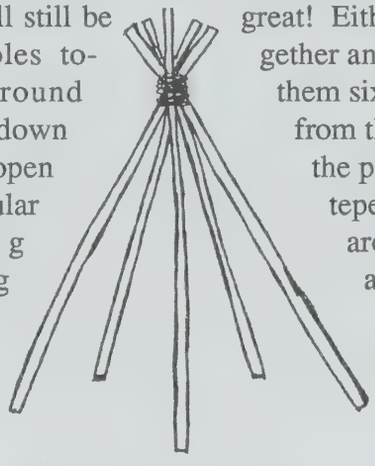
Supplies:

5-6 wooden "poles"
16 ply cotton twine
Hammer

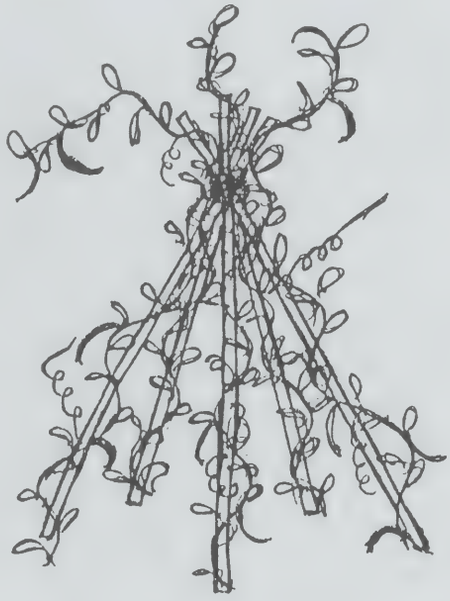


You can use a variety of wooden "poles" as long as they are of equal length, 6-9 feet long depending on the finished height desired. Add at least 1 & 1/2 additional feet onto the height - this part gets hammered into the soil. A good width is 1 to 2 inches. (2 inches if you choose to build a really tall tepee.) Dowels work well as does bamboo or lumber (1 x 1, 2 x 2) cut to order.

Begin by choosing a sunny spot in the garden. If you don't have a garden, a very large container or half wine barrel can be used. Containers will hold smaller tepees up to 4 feet tall. This won't be big enough to sit in, but the harvest will still be great! Either way, bundle poles together and lash twine around them six inches to one foot down from the top. Carefully open the poles into a large circular tepee in your planting area. If you are building a structure large enough for children to sit in, be sure to space two of the front poles far enough apart for kids to crawl through. Hammer the tepee 1 to 1-1/2 feet into the ground.



Beans are very easy to start from seed. Plant Pole Beans (Kentucky Wonder or Scarlet Red Runner Beans), or any tall climbing bean variety. Sow seeds directly into the garden (around the poles) or transplant seedlings anytime from March to August. You will need 2-3 seedlings to plant around each pole. Beans should be ready to harvest in 60-80 days. Water every few days until plants are established, and then as needed. Pick mature beans often and don't forget to harvest the ones hanging down inside the tepee.



Thanks to *San Francisco Urban Gardener* and Lisa Frank.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Rebecca Melvin is an avid 84 year old gardener at the **Aspen Farms** Community Garden in West Philadelphia. Her gardening roots go back to her growing up years in Berryville, Virginia, where corn and wheat were the main crops.

Becky has seen quite a number of summer seasons and has tried her hand at growing a wide variety of flowers and vegetables. Her experiences have kept her sharp, enthusiastic and ready for new growing adventures. Last year, when her fellow gardener, **Wesley Conners**, gave her "a puff of cotton" with seed in it, Becky decided to grow cotton for the first time in her life. As she says, "You're never too old."

Becky appreciated the two seedlings that appeared. One grew 14 inches high with just a few buds. The other kept growing and growing, like Jack's beanstalk, finally measuring six feet high.

The flowers that covered the plant looked like Rose-of-Sharon. Some were pink and some were white, though Becky doesn't have a clue why. "They were gorgeous, great big flowers. W[illegible] a flower dropped off I coul[illegible] big green nut. Then a cotto[illegible] would seem to happen ov[illegible]t."

So much cotto[illegible] on that one plant that it became a conversation piece. She shared cotton puffs containing the seed with two neighboring schools so that students could learn more about cotton by growing it themselves.

In the fall, Becky harvested the green unopened pods and hung them in the kitchen. The pods opened in just a few days from the warmer temperatures inside. She removed about 18 to 20 seeds per pod by pulling the cotton "puff" or boll apart. Once the seeds were thoroughly dry, she put them in a jar and kept them over the winter.

Becky will plant the cotton in a row along the edge of her garden plot, where she usually plants her flowers, for a gorgeous display. This year she intends to plant some early and some later and watch the growing cycle very closely. She's also growing some in a backyard container. She expects the container-grown cotton will be a "knock-out for the Harvest Show."

When Becky harvests the cotton bolls next fall, she hopes to have enough to add to her Christmas wreath.

If you have a gardening story to share, call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

June 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 6. July/Aug 1991

Green City Philadelphia

An Urban Environmental Platform for the Nineties.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN has participated with 60 other organizations to create **GREEN CITY PHILADELPHIA**. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, this platform has been endorsed by the Mayoral Candidates of both the Democratic and Republican Parties.

GREEN CITY PHILADELPHIA addresses important environmental and preservation issues including Parks and Open Space, Solid Waste and Recycling, Water, Food and Agriculture and others. This platform promotes ideas that will make our City a healthy, livable, and environmentally preferable community. Building on our 300-year investment in "green resources" of urban parks, community gardens, advanced water supply and mass transportation systems, Philadelphia can become a model "green city" nationally and internationally.

If you have an opportunity to speak with the City's Mayoral or Council candidates, please urge them to adopt and promote the GREEN CITY PHILADELPHIA platform. If you would like a summary copy of the Platform, please call PHILADELPHIA GREEN at 625-8280.

Francisville Plant Sale

Waking up the garden was the constant theme in **Francisville** this spring, from the first community meeting held at the NAC office with **Una Vee Bruce** and her gardeners. One thing was clear from the beginning—this year's goal was to see more widespread community involvement in the total greening of Francisville.

To kick things off, the group decided to sponsor a plant sale , to enable more groups to get their flowers and vegetables locally.

After weeks of planning and taking orders at the NAC's office, the date of the sale was set. This sale also included 50 window boxes, and enough flowers to fill them. These window boxes can be viewed on the following blocks: **1800 Wylie Street, 1600 Olive Street, 1600 Swain Street, 1600 Francis Street**, and other scattered sites.

According to Mrs. Bruce, the entire process was a great success. "We're looking forward to next year's sale which should be even better because the local gardeners should have everything worked out."

Thanks to all who took part in this year's sale, Francisville GCT is now a rather colorful place with flowers and vegetables growing from end to end.

The view Through a Harvest Window. *For information on how to enter the Harvest Window Class of the Harvest Show, see page 6.*

First Tomato on the Vine Contest -- WE HAVE A WINNER!!

Marjorie Washington of the **Aspen Farms** community garden proudly displayed the first vine-ripened tomato in the city on Tuesday, June 11. Staff of the **Neighborhood Gardens Association**, the organization which sponsored the contest, were on hand to marvel over the tomato.

Ms. Washington will receive a $10 gift certificate for her achievement.

Hydrant Permits

If your garden is using a fire hydrant for watering this summer, the City requires you to have a **Hydrant Permit.** To acquire yours, send the following to **Bettie McGill** at **Philadelphia Green**:

- $9 check or money order, payable to "City of Philadelphia"
- Exact address of the hydrant (such as "southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut" or "325 Chestnut")
- Name of person who will be using the hydrant
- Address of garden or garden block

More New Groups

Welcome to the following groups who have joined Philadelphia Green since our last issue!

2800 W. Cambridge Street	Shirley Allen
2700 North 25th Street	Ms. Lester Vernetta Bell
3900 Wyalusing Avenue	Donald A. Whitfield
1300 North 54th Street	Harvey Dixon
5539 Florence	Janell Lassiter
5308-12 Parrish	Shirley Lundy
2811 Judson	June Malson
1121 Catherine	Sue Rosenthal
144 N. 51st	Mary Dixon
3010 Diamond	Anna Smith
1517 N. 33rd	Mary Alexander
1727-29 Mascher	Jennifer Greene
1321 W. Firth	Dorothy Brown

Coming Up in July & August

July 1-20 **City Gardens Contest**
Preliminary judging

August 1-20 **City Gardens Contest**
Final Judging

Plant in July from seed:
beans
beets
Chinese cabbage
collards
corn
cucumbers
kale
lettuce
pansies

From transplants:
brussels sprouts
chrysanthemums

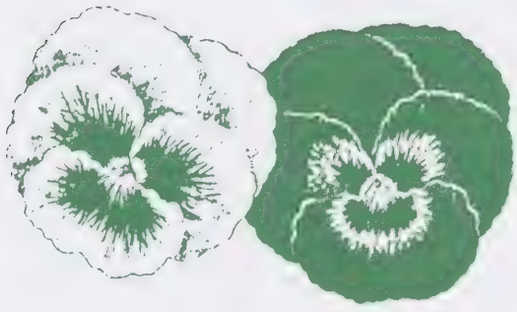
Wait for August:
endive
peas
spinach
radishes
garlic bulbs
carrots

Candied Flowers

People have been candying flowers for centuries. Here's a simple guide to making your own crystallized flowers for future use as garnishes for desserts or charming cake decorations.

First be sure the flowers you use are edible, and have not been sprayed with fungicides or pesticides. The blooms most commonly used for this purpose are members of the **Viola** family. These include **pansies, Johnny-Jump-Ups,** and the old-fashioned **sweet violets.** Another excellent subject is the bright blue star-shaped flower of the annual herb, **Borage.**

If you have grown your own flowers, the best time to harvest the flowers is in the morning after the dew has dried. Select perfect blossoms at their visual peak with no holes or tears in the petals. Cut so that the stems are 1/4 inch long.



You will need the following materials to candy flowers:

- egg white,
- small artist's brush,
- fresh flowers that are gently washed and dried,
- tweezers
- fine granulated sugar.

Begin by beating the egg white until it is frothy. Use the brush to paint the egg white onto the top and bottom of each petal. Then hold the flower by the stem with the tweezers and either dip the flowers into the sugar or lightly sprinkle the sugar onto each petal. If you are using very large pansies you will need to carefully pull the petals apart, then paint and coat with sugar. This will allow them to cure better. They can be easily reassembled when you are ready to use them. Place each candied flower on a rack to speed drying. Choose a cool dry place. Let dry until the sugar has hardened.

Store the flowers in a non-opaque air-tight container. Crystallized flowers will keep for up to a year stored in this fashion.

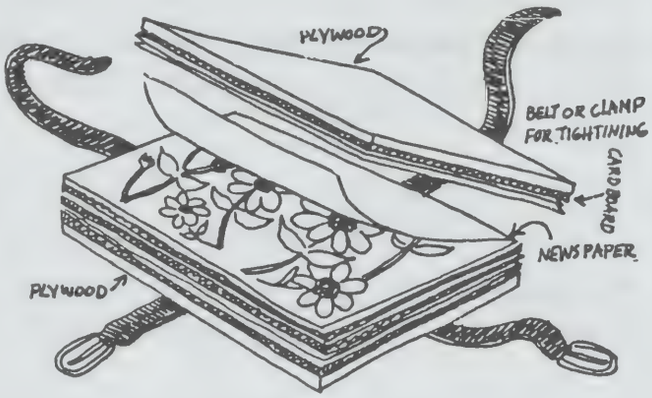
Cultivating Kids

How to Make a Flower Press

Drying Flowers and Leaves is Fun

Fall is a good time of year to learn to preserve leaves and flowers - so you'll have them to use in the winter months. There are many colorful flowers and leaves available during the autumn months in your yard or in pastures, and by drying and pressing these plants, they will last and last.

Before you collect the plants you'd like to press, you need to make a flower press. Find two flat boards, like plywood, of equal size. Boards of about 12" x 15" are plenty large enough. Inside the boards you'll need several pieces of corrugated cardboard, blotting paper (thick construction paper), and folded newspapers - all cut the same size as your boards. Then find a belt or clamp to hold the press together. Two Bungee cords will also work.



When your flower press is ready, you can collect plants you'd like to press. The best time of day to go collecting is in the morning or early evening, when the plants won't wilt as readily and stay fresh until you put them in the flower press. Choose flowers and leaves that are fairly flat and thin so they will fit in the press easily. Some plants to look for are goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace, daisies, black-eyed susans, ferns, grasses, and tree leaves. Many, many flowers can be found in the woods and fields or in your gardens, so begin by collecting in these areas.

Goldenrod

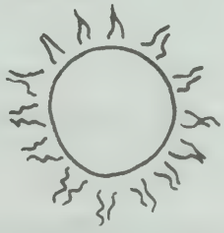
Queen Anne's Lace

Oxeye Daisy or Field Daisy

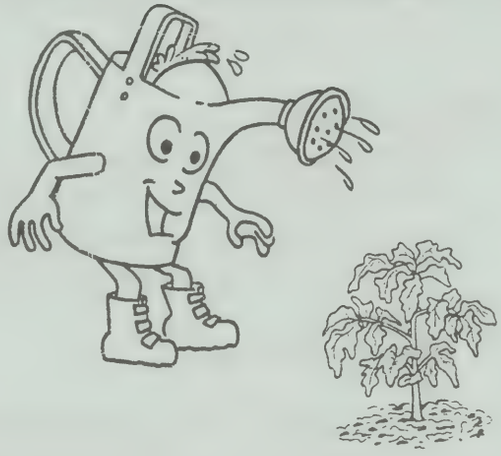
YOUR MIDSUMMER GARDEN

PLANTING

Take special care when planting seeds in the hotter months, since the ground dries out so much faster. Plant seeds twice as deep as directions tell you, and keep them well watered. Some people find that seeds sprout better if they're covered temporarily with cardboard, boards, or a light covering of salt hay. Just make sure you remove the covering once they start to grow.



MAINTENANCE



REGULAR WATERING

Water deeply at least once a week. It's not enough to give the plants just a "social sprinkle" for five minutes every night while you gossip with your neighbors. If you're watering by hand, each of the large plants like tomatoes or peppers will need a good drink (about a gallon every other night) during hot weather if it doesn't rain.

SIDE-DRESS WITH FERTILIZER

Take fertilizer (10-10-10 or 5-10-5 or 5-10-10) and draw a circle of about a handful around each large plant, about two inches from the stem of the plant. Large handsful for large plants, small ones for small plants. For rows of plants, run a line of fertilizer alongside the row, about two inches from the plants.

Another way to fertilize after the plants are already growing is to use a soluble plant food (one that you dissolve in water) and water with that solution every month. Follow the directions that come with each package. You can also mix it up half-strength and water twice as often. For those gardening organically, the same methods can be used for "organic based" dry fertilizers, or a compost or manure "tea" can be brewed to give summer plants the boost they need. To do this, take well-rotted manure or compost and wrap it in a burlap sack or old pillowcase as a teabag. A few handsful will do a gallon, while a couple of shovelsful are needed for a 55-gallon drum of water. Water with this every week to add trace elements, nitrogen, and organic matter to the soil around the plants.

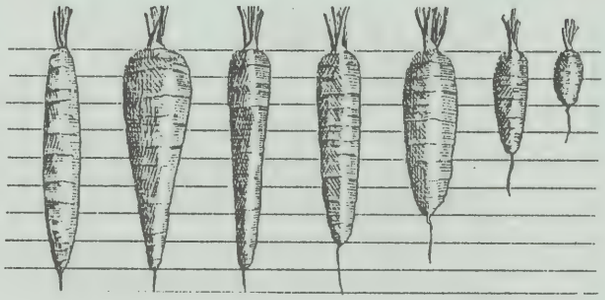
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut St., Phila., PA 19106 625-8280

YOUR MIDSUMMER GARDEN (cont.)

THINNING

Keep plants from competing for space and soil moisture by thinning out the more crowded items, especially root crops.



HARVESTING

Keep plants picked--once many plants ripen up their fruit, they call it quits unless the ripe fruit is removed.

MULCHES

Anything that covers the soil to warm it up, cool it off, keep it moist, or keep weeds from growing is considered a mulch. Newspaper, hay, plastic, wood chips, or leaves are all good mulches.

Things to remember:

1. Light-colored mulches reflect the sun's heat, keeping the soil cooler.
2. Darker mulches absorb the sun's heat, making soil warmer.
3. Mulch shouldn't be so thick or impermeable that it won't let water through to the soil below. If it is, as is the case with plastic, make sure to poke holes where water puddles after rain to let the water through.
4. Be sure that wood chips, sawdust, or manure are well-rotted, since they can burn plants or rob plants of nitrogen as they rot down.
5. Always put down a mulch after a good rain or after you have watered well. It can't KEEP soil moist if the soil wasn't moist to start with.
6. Mulches are often a good hiding place for slugs, so be prepared to deal with them if they should arrive.

VIGILANCE AND PATIENCE

Keep a close eye on your garden during the hotter months. Any problem that exists will be exaggerated by the heat. Do your work early or late in the day, or YOU'LL end up with exaggerated problems. Watch for bugs, since they don't mind the heat a bit, and will take advantage of the time you spend inside in front of a fan.

4/91

How to Press Flowers

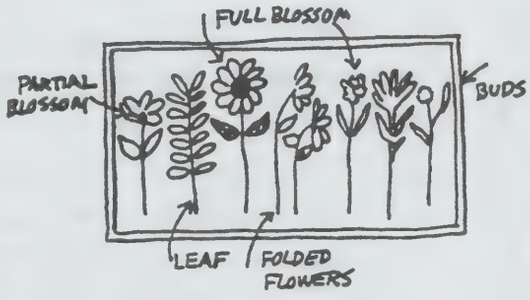
Lay a sheet of cardboard on the board, then a blotter and then the folded newspaper. Open the newspaper and lay your flowers or leaves on it so they don't overlap. After filling one piece of newspaper with plants, place another blotter on top, then cardboard. Belt or clamp the press tightly to keep it together. It takes about three days to completely dry the plants.

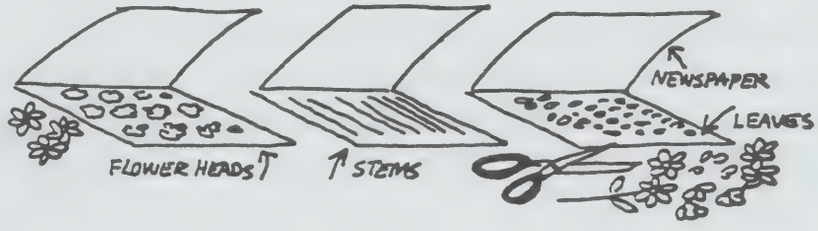
Remember to arrange the plants on the newspaper just as you'd like them to look. Curve the stem, open the flower or fold the flower in half, so they will look pretty.

Put the press in a warm, dry place and leave it alone for six to 12 hours. The moisture in the flowers will collect in the blotters so after about six hours replace the blotters with dry ones, then reapply the belt or clamps. Flowers may turn brown from being wet too long, so it's important to remember to change the blotters at the right time. Change the blotter again the next day and then every two to three days after that until the plants are thoroughly dry. The damp blotters can be spread out to dry and used over again.

When you're finished save your pressed flowers, leaves, ferns and weeds in the press or between the pages of a telephone directory until you use them.

Arrange your flowers and leaves artistically.





On the Vine

Tip-Toe thru the Tulips Already?

Bring "BULB" beauty to your garden next Spring. To make your garden a show-stopper in the Spring you'll need to plan & plant NOW. Philadelphia Green is having a **Bulb Sale** on **October 24th & 25th.** Watch for order forms in your next newsletter.

What's New at the 1991 Harvest Show
Harvesting the Years

This year you'll be able to bring not only your best-looking flowers and vegetables to the Show — but also any unusual product that may have grown in your garden! Introducing a new class.....

GOOD SPORTS FROM THE FUNNY FARM.

Bring amazing and amusing mutations of common (or not-so-common) vegetables and fruits from the garden. For display only in the **Fruits and Vegetables** section. Exhibitor may display more than one item. Sorry, no animals permitted.

Another new catagory, eligible for judging, is the **HERB WREATH**. 8" wreaths made of dried herbs, with a minimum of five varieties. The wreath must be equipped with a wire for hanging.

Back by Popular Demand: Harvest Windows

An exhibit of vegetables, fruits, blooms, plants and/or plant products staged to reflect the bounty of your garden as seen through a harvest window, designed to represent any year named by the exhibitor. Baked goods may be used. All material must be grown and processed by the exhibitor. Container plants must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months. Staging is provided by PHS.

Advance registration is required. A list identifying materials must be submitted by August 15ths. Space provided is 6' x 6'. Details will be sent to exhibiters after they register. **Limited to six entries.**

A workshop on how to design and stage a Harvest Window is scheduled for August. Please call Flossie Narducci at 625-8280 for date and location.

Join us at the
1991 Community Gardeners' Harvest Party

Date: Saturday, Sept 21st
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Place: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

You can order five free tickets for your community group in advance. Additional tickets are available at the Registration Tables when you make an entry at the Harvest Show.

Registration: Thursday, September 19th 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Friday, September 20th 7:30 - 10:00 PM

To get your free tickets, fill out the tear-off below and return **by SEPTEMBER 1st** to:

Flossie Narducci
Philadelphia Green
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

- **tear off** - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Garden Address _____

Please register me for:

5 FREE Harvest Party Tickets ☐

Baked Goods *Rose Geranium Cake* ☐

Herb Bread ☐

Herb Muffins ☐

Harvest Window ☐

We would like to bring entries to the Harvest Show.

Please send info and _____ green tags (Vegetables and Flowers)
_____ orange tags (Preserved Products and Baked Goods)

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The students at **Vare Middle School** won first prize in the Challenge Class at the 1991 Junior Flower Show. Their luscious-looking broccoli was backed up by a humorous poster depicting George Bush saying "Yeecch."

Larry Stier, their teacher, was all smiles the day of judging. He was imagining his students faces when they discovered they had won, especially **Seneca** who colored the George Bush poster. The students are part of Vare's special education program. While their level of understanding and abilities are more limited than other teenagers, with Larry's guidance, they have entered a new world through gardening.

Back in 1986, Larry started a garden with Philadelphia Green's help. He began with "a flat of petunias, one of tomatoes and lots of love." Each year since, Larry's students plant a new vegetable garden behind the school fence. **Terence** handles the little plants carefully, moving them from market packs into the garden. **Shanola** gardens from her wheelchair. She can water and hoe from a seated position. When she has a job at groundlevel, Larry lifts her out of the chair and puts her on the ground. **Zahia** plants some flowers she brought from home.

Larry describes gardening as an important primeval experience for the kids. They really come alive. They learn passion for the environment. They are part of something that has so much potential. They are drawn into the garden's magical energy.

Larry himself has grown tremendously since the first garden five years ago. He now has an after-school garden club with students who are in regular classes at Vare. Larry has worked with **PhilaPride** on an aluminium can recycling program. The Vare students celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of a 'Red Jade' Crabapple provided by Philadelphia Green's Tree Program. **Neil** created the winning Arbor Day card.

Larry sees bridges being formed between his special kids and the rest of the school. **Betty**, a seventh grader, watched over the fence one day as Larry and his kids worked in the garden. When she asked if she could help, **Cathy**, one of Larry's kids, gave her a pair of gloves she was using. Without batting an eye, Betty said, "Give me five," as she put the gloves on.

Larry is inspired about what gardening has meant to Vare. "When people pass by and see us gardening, they think we're gardening vegetables. But what we really are gardening is love - love of the world, the environment, and most of all the people who are working together.

Tell us your own gardening story. Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

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Edited by Sally McCabe
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July/August 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 7. September 1991

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Topiary in Strawberry Mansion

by Ignatius Weekes

Who says wishes never come true? **Evelyn Forbes** of Strawberry Mansion suggested at a local town meeting that she would just love to have a topiary workshop in her garden at **2100 N. Newkirk St.** Mrs. Forbes knew that her junipers badly needed pruning, but she didn't want a "hatchet job." She kept envisioning a topiary horse in her shrubs.

The workshop that grew out of Mrs. Forbes' wishes was led by Philadelphia Green Education staff members Patricia Schrieber and Ignatius Weekes, as twenty-three excited gardeners attended.

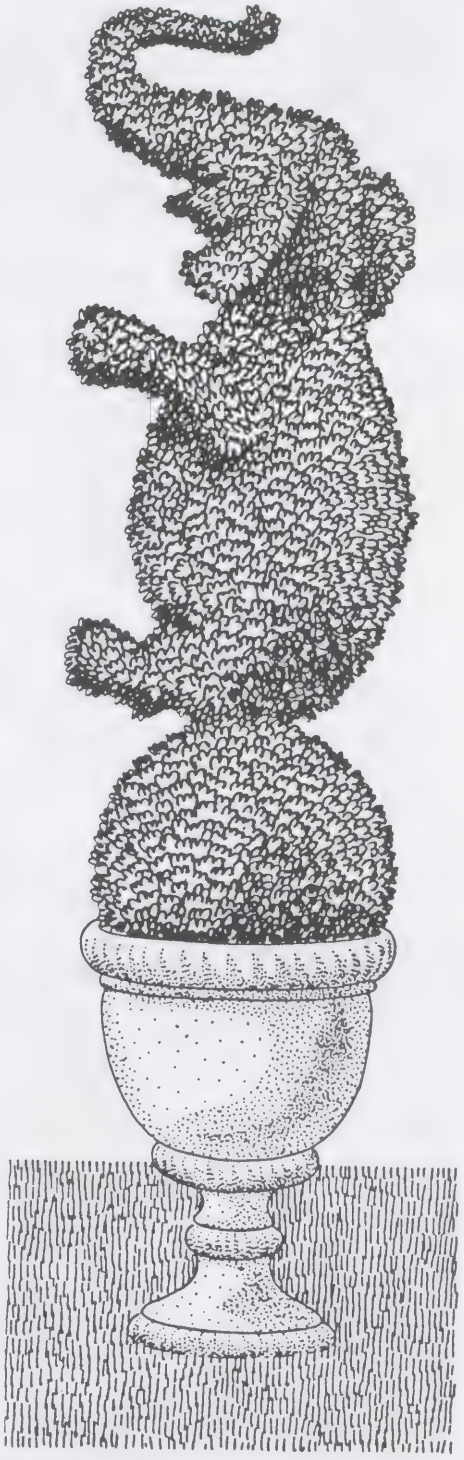
The workshop provided hands-on demonstrations, offering tips on shaping, wiring and much more. Among those on hand to practice their handiwork were **John Dotson, Charlotte Lewis, Jim Norris, Leroy McMillan** and **Dorothy Johnson.**

Along with the topiary horse, other shapes were represented; **Florie Dotson's** starfish, and several globes, birds and fishes appeared, along with some figures we're still trying to figure out. All but the horse were made from shrubs in containers.

The workshop ended with a massive group-pruning of Mrs. Forbes' fig tree, which promises to bear heavily this year. Let's hope she invites everyone back in time to harvest the crop!

The topiary workshop plants were given as prizes to the lucky gardeners who were able to answer the important question...***What are the 3 D's of pruning?***

Answer: 1. Dead 2. Diseased 3. Damaged



PHILADELPHIA GREEN • 325 Walnut Street, Phila. PA 19106 (215-241) a project of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Getting Ready For the Harvest Show

Harvest Show Workshop

Join us for a **Harvest Show How-To** at the **Penn State Urban Gardening Demo Garden**, Sept. 10, 10:00 am - noon. The entrance is at 48th St. between Market & Haverford.

- Learn how to harvest your fruits and flowers, your vegetables and herbs.
- Learn how to select blue ribbon specimens.
- Learn how to condition and transport the best of your garden to the show.
- Learn the right way to fill out entry tags.

Get the jump on all your friends!!
For more information, call the **Penn State Gardenphone, 560-4167.**
Please bring vegetables and flowers with you to practice with.

All About Entry Tags

Always fill out your tags before coming to the Show. This will greatly speed Registration at the Show. To obtain entry tags call Flossie at 625-8280.

There are five kinds of tags:

GREEN tags are for **Community Garden** entries in all classes except Preserved Products.

ORANGE tags are for entries in **Preserved Products** classes only (not Baked Goods).

BLUE tags are used for all **Youth** entries. A colored dot is added by the entry aides at the Show to indicate age/grade division.

YELLOW tags are for all **Individual** entries in all classes except Preserved Products and Youth classes. An individual entry is one grown outside of a community garden. If an entry was grown in a community garden but there is no community garden class for it, a yellow tag will be used with a pumpkin stamp (see below).

PUMPKIN-STAMPED - a pumpkin stamp on a yellow, orange or blue tag tells us that the entry was grown by an individual, but they want the points for that entry to go to their community garden for the sweepstakes competition.

Harvest Show Dates

September 19	Thursday	5:30- 8 pm	**Registration** for the Harvest Show
September 20	Friday	7:30-10 am	**Registration** for Harvest Show
September 21	Saturday	10-5 pm 12-4 6-8	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 22	Sunday	10-5 pm 12-4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!

Harvest Show Entry Tags

ENTRY TAGS MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND CONSISTENTLY

- Please print
- Use a pencil or waterproof marker (address labels are acceptable)
- Complete all information on top and bottom of tag (the two halves of the tag are separated after judging for different uses)
- Use the **exact same name** on each entry tag to ensure accurate statistics, points, publicity

Check out the sample Tag: ***Look to the right*** ≥≥≥

A. Class No. - Check Harvest Show booklet for the class number of your entry
e.g. page 13 - class #146 - cucumber

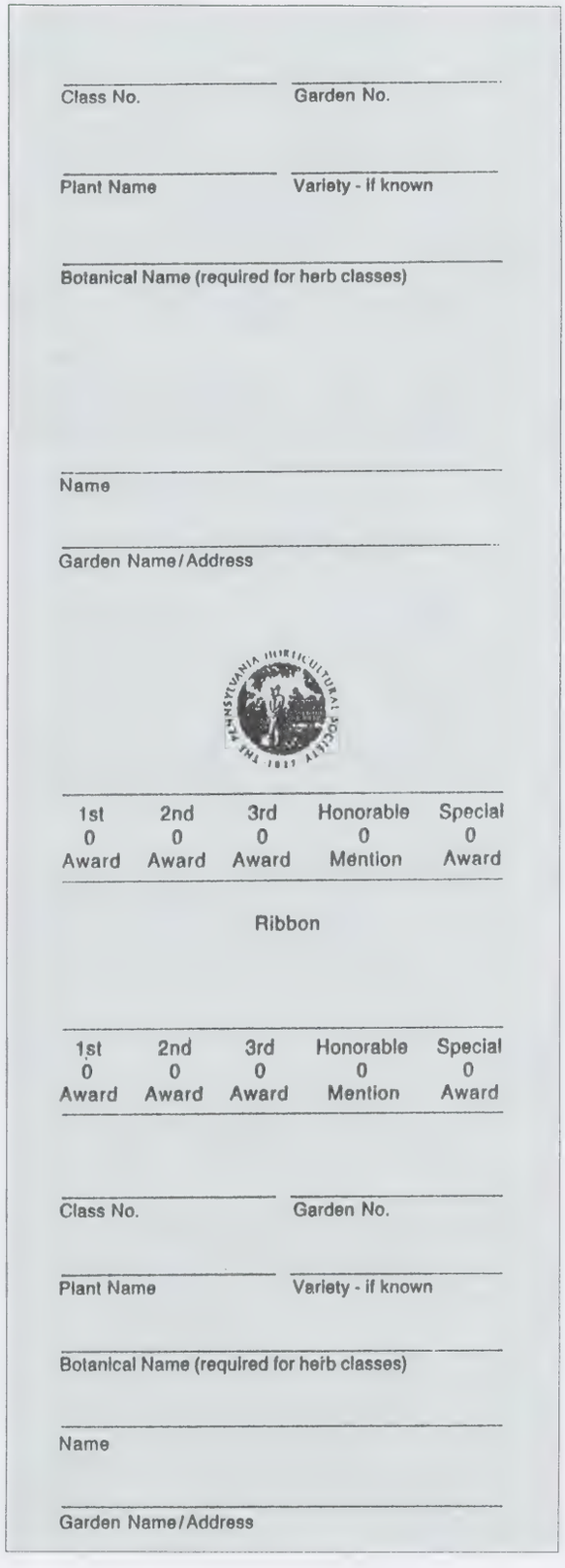
B. Garden No.
Your garden number will be sent to you when you pre-register. Make sure your garden number is on both sections of the entry tag to ensure your garden of points toward the Harvest Show Sweepstakes.

C. Plant Name Variety, if known
e.g. Cucumber, "Spacemaster"

D. Botanical Name, if known
for Herb classes, it is required

E. Name - your name

F. Garden Name/Address - if your garden has a name, list it; if not, just include the garden address.



Cultivating Kids

Kids can enter the Harvest Show, too! There are special categories set up in horticulture, crafts and arranging. Young people will compete against each other in different divisions such as preschool, grades 1 - 3, grades 4 - 6, grades 7 - 9, grades 10 - 12 and ungraded classes. The scarecrow exhibit and mini-door decoration must be registered in advance. Please don't use any artificial plant material.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS CLASSES FOR KIDS

1. **PUMPKIN PALS**. Uncarved, uncut, painted pumpkin. Fresh and/or dried plant material may be used to embellish features.

2. **CRAFTY CREATURES**. A creature made from seeds, nuts, pods, cones, dried flowers and/or dried materials. No fresh material, paint, ribbon or candy permitted.

3. **MASK**. A mask of your favorite hero from the past. Dried plant material only. Title or name of subject required on 3 x 5 card. Mask not to exceed 18" in any direction. Must be equipped to be hung.

4. **SENTIMENTAL SCARECROW**. For your grandmother's garden. Limited to 8 entries. Pre-registration required by July 1. Must be equipped to be hung.

5. **MINI-DOOR DECORATION**. A decoration for a miniature door (approximately 48" high x 24" wide) Dried plant material only. Accessories permitted. Must be equipped to be hung (wire loop). Limited to 6 entires. Pre-registration required by June 1st.

6. **PIONEER'S PICNIC**. An arrangement for a picnic on the trail in the early 1800's. Created from a collection of roadside flowers and/or weeds. Fresh and/or dried plant material; no potted plants permitted. No food items permitted. NOT TO EXCEED 12" IN ANY DIRECTION.

7. **FLAPPER'S FLING**. An arrangement for a party in the 1920s. All fresh plant material. No food items permitted. Accessories permitted. NOT TO EXCEED 12" IN ANY DIRECTION.

8. **BACK TO THE FUTURE**. A creative arrangement of fresh and/or dried plant material for a child's room in the 1990s. NOT TO EXCEED 12" IN ANY DIRECTION.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT THE SHOW

Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more! Join the fun with your children from 12:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 & 22.

YOUTH HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

9. **CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT**. Container not to exceed 8". One plant to a container.

10. **VEGETABLES**. Grown by exhibitor. To be displayed on paper plates supplied by committee.

    A. Tomatoes, three specimens
    B. Squash, three specimens
    C. Cucumbers, three specimens
    D. Peppers, three specimens
    E. Eggplant, one specimen
    F. Beans, twelve specimens
    G. Beets, three specimens
    H. Carrots, three specimens
    I. Gourds, three specimens
    J. Pumpkin, one of any variety
    L. Melon, one of any variety
    M. Any vegetable other than classes A through L, three specimens
    N. Herbs, three specimens in water
    O. Herb, one plant grown in a container
    P. COLLECTION, five or more different vegetables, fruits and/or herbs. Herbs should be in water-filled containers supplied by committee. More than 1 of each variety permitted. Attractively displayed in a basket supplied by the exhibitor.

11. **SUNFLOWER**. One head, grown by exhibitor.

12. **DISH GARDEN**. An arrangement of two or more plants in a shallow container no larger than 12" in diameter. Small figures may be used.

13. **TERRARIUM**. Must have a cover and contain two or more growing plants. Not to exceed 18" in any direction.

14. **ANNUALS**. A collection of annuals. Five specimens, one or more kinds. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

15. **MARIGOLDS**. A collection of marigolds. Five specimens, one or more varieties. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

16. **CONTAINER GROWN**.
    a. Vegetables
    b. Annuals
    c. Fruits
    d. Herbs
    e. Any Other

17. **VINEGAR**. An herb vinegar to be judged for visual effect.

18. **PRESERVED PRODUCT**. One canned product. Judged for visual effect. *All canned products must be heat sealed as appropriate in a hot water or pressure canner. Paraffin sealing is not acceptable.*

Gardening Tips From All Over

Branching Out

There's a certain excitement to fall. Change is in the air. You can feel it in the cool crisp breezes and see it in the trees. Fall shows trees in their full glory, as if to remind us of how much we need them in our lives. This is fortunate because **FALL IS A GREAT TIME FOR PLANTING TREES.**

Fall welcomes new trees with warm soil, which encourages root growth, and with shorter, cooler days, which decrease transpiration or water loss through leaves. This combination allows trees to concentrate large amounts of energy settling into their new homes.

In temperate climates such as ours, fall planting is encouraged after leaves turn color or drop. Trees enter a seasonal dormant stage at this point and are least likely to suffer from shock. Of course, no one wants to be awakened from a gentle slumber by frostbitten toes - or in this case roots. Take care to protect the tree's roots from being exposed to the cold for an extended period of time by mulching the tree after planting.

This October Philadelphia Green will sponsor a **FALL IS FOR PLANTING** program. Look for our new Tree Section "**Branching Out,**" which will appear in the **Philadelphia Green News** twice a year starting this October. In the meantime, start planning your fall tree planting schedule. Call us for ideas or for information on Philadelphia Green's fall tree planting activities.

**Some tree species are not recommended for fall planting. Check with an arborist or Philadelphia Green if you have questions about the appropriateness of a fall planting for your tree type.*

September

FROM SEED OR BULBS
garlic
lettuce
daffodils & narcissus
radishes
tulips

DIVIDE
daylilies
iris
peonies
phlox

BRING IN
houseplants
herbs for overwintering
cuttings of geraniums, begonias, & impatiens

Community Gardens Tour & Brunch

Saturday, September 14, 1991

The White Dog Cafe, 3420 Sansom Street, is presenting a Harvest Tour & Brunch. For more information and to register, call 386-9224.

9:30 a.m. Coffee and scones with an introduction by the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** describing **Philadelphia Green's** community gardens program.

10:00 a.m. Tour by motorized trolley of Philadelphia neighborhoods to visit outstanding community flower and vegetable gardens and accompanying wall murals produced by the Anti-Graffiti Network.

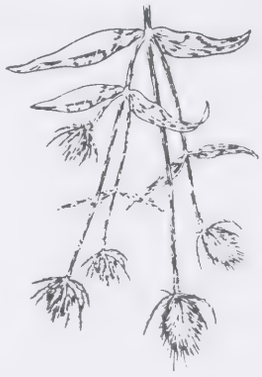
11:30 a.m. Brunch under tent-top in Moravian Court (behind the White Dog).

$26 per person (Brunch, including tax and gratuity, $16, tour $10.)

Drying Flowers and Herbs

Summer conjures up memories of "fun in the sun," bright hot days spent outside, and boisterous, colorful flowers. Have you ever wished you could save the bright colors, pretty blooms, and wonderful smells and tastes of summer to help carry you through those dreary winter days? Well, here is one way to do just that!

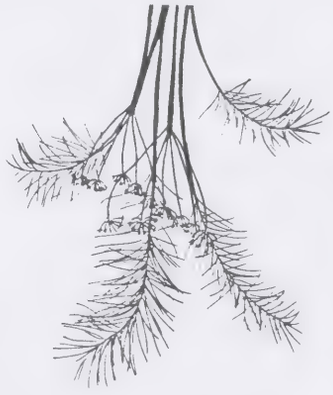
There is no set time of year to pick all flowers and plants to dry. Each individual plant has a prime time for cutting. Usually, the best time is just before full bloom, before the color has begun to fade.



There are many ways to dry a plant. The main aim is the complete removal of moisture; plants must be thoroughly dry to keep. The most common method of drying is to tie the plants together and hang them upside down.

Here are some easy-to-follow directions for drying your favorites:

- The plants should be cut on a bright sunny day. A length of stem that usually works well is 12" to 15". You may want to strip off any excess leaves or branches, as the less there is on the stem, the more quickly it will dry.
- Limit your bunches to three or four stems, and tie them tightly. A rubber band or twist-tie works well.
- Next, hang your plants upside down in any warm, well-ventilated dry spot, avoiding direct sunlight. The lack of humidity in your location is particularly important, as too much moisture will cause plants to wilt or mildew. Some prime spots are: the cellar, attic, shed, garage, or even the kitchen.
- When plants are completely dried, they will be stiff to the touch, and the stems will snap easily. The average drying time is eight to ten days.



Herbs can also be dried, and may be used for decorative or culinary purposes. The best time to cut herbs is when there is no dew on the plant, the sun is not hot, and the sky is as clear as can be. If you want to dry the leaves for cooking, gather before the plant blooms. Herbs can be cut more than once during a season, as the second growth has the same quality for drying.

Another easy method for drying herbs is the microwave oven:

- Strip leaves from the heavier stems and spread them on a microwave-safe plate.
- Put in the oven on HIGH for 1-2 minutes.
- Remove the plate, fluff up the herbs, and repeat until they are dry enough to crumble between your fingers.
- Rub the dried herbs through a collander to remove the bigger pieces.
- Place the finished product in an air-tight container.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Have you seen the garden near 7th and Jefferson? Everyone in that neighborhood is very proud of block captain **Carmen Delgado** who started the garden in the spring of 1990.

Carmen's helpers include her daughter, **Jacqueline Delgado**, **Louise Grant** and **William Kent,** who live on the same block, and **Carmello Dicente** who lives on the next block up.

Carmen's garden is on a four - house lot that was a dumping ground for years. The neighbors kept cleaning it off. Finally, they heard of Philadelphia Green through the **Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee.**

Susan Phillips and **Jonathan Frank** of our Tree Program met with Carmen and her neighbors and offered to help. Right off, they planted 15 evergreens in the back of the lot. Philadelphia Green also provided a table and park benches.

In those early days of the garden, Carmen didn't get much sleep. Since there was no fence, she'd stay up nights praying that the plants would be there in the morning. Just after the evergreens were put in, someone sto[illegible] News of the theft reached [illegible] who ran down the street in her night clothes. The thief was caught and the tree replanted. Unfortunately, it was stolen again the next night and never found.

Carmen bought pieces of fencing. She wanted a fence that would protect their hard work. The fence was rusty so she obtained paint from the city and painted the whole fence white.

Now everyone is celebrating the new garden fence provided by **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network**. The fence is Carmen's award for being named the **1990 Volunteer of the Year**.

The garden is filled with flowers, rose bushes and vegetables. People come by to share plants with Carmen. If she's not home, they leave the plants on her doorstep. Last year, the garden was filled with pumpkin vines and huge pumpkins. While Carmen has not planted any pumpkins this year, one or two vines have started on their own. So watch out, Carmen, here comes another pumpkin patch.

Carmen feels like a mother of gardens. As a result of the garden on her block, people have asked how she got started. Now daughter gardens are popping up around her neighborhood: a combination of 11 tree projects on N. 7th up to Lehigh, 10 tree projects on N. Franklin and 2 projects on N. 9th Street. Congratulations, Carmen.

Share your garden stories.
Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

September 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No.8. October/November 1991

Youth Tree Corps Knows How

Imagine your 15-year old neighbor talking to you about the importance of keeping your tree pit free of weeds and trash that draw water away from the tree roots. During July and August, approximately 50 teenagers did just that as participants in Philadelphia Green's **Youth Tree Corps**. Each of the five week-long programs taught teens the wonder and value of trees and how to care for them.

The interest and involvement of the Tree Corps volunteers had a contagious effect on their neighbors. A group of 6 teenagers organized by **John Bushnell** from **Roberto Clemente Recreation Center** at 18th & Wallace Streets worked on 90 trees during their week. Some neighbors were so impressed by the results of the teens' work that they picked up brooms and trashbags of their own and started cleaning up around the neighborhood.

Hands-on care from a volunteer

Rena Ennis, head of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and a leader in the **Black Oak Park** area of West Philadelphia organized an impressive group which at one point numbered eighteen. This group worked on trees in Black Oak Park, at **Huey School** and around their neighborhood.

The **Hirsh Recreational Center** at 5th & Allegheny is the meeting place for an all girls drill team, which, under the direction of **Miriam Colon** and **Maggie Ortiz** became the Youth Tree Corps Group with the fanciest pruning and mulching moves.

The last two groups were formed through the joint efforts of local schools and community groups. **Carol Vanagaitis**, a neighbor of **Harding Middle School** and **Whitehall Park** pulled together a group of teens who had worked on the Tree Farm at Harding School. (See the "Tree Farm" article on page 3.) The fifth Youth Tree Corp worked with a summer greening group organized by **Dennis Donahue**, a teacher at **George Washington Elementary School** and an active neighbor of **Jefferson Park**. After spending a week with the Corps, this group hopes to develop a tree farm, like Harding's, at their school.

Students learned that trees in the city have drastically shorter lives than their rural counterparts. They also learned techniques by which tree lifespans could be extended. The Corps members received hands-on experience in loosening compacted soil so that oxygen and water can reach the roots, adding nutrients to soil, and laying down "Right Dress", a mulch to help the tree retain moisture. They also performed light pruning to remove dead, diseased or damaged branches. Of course, they watered the trees. The Youth Tree Corps talked with neighbors and told them how they can keep their trees healthy and alive.

The success of the Youth Tree Corps can best be measured by the interest of the youth and the responsiveness of their neighbors. One teen, Tim, said "I used to ignore the tree in front of my house, but now I'm going to take care of it. Now I know how."

If you would like more information on planting and caring for trees or on organizing a William Penn Tree Project in your neighborhood, call 625-8280.

Gardening Tips from All Over

Bringing in the Houseplants

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. (Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle.) In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs, as well as caterpillars. Wash off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

If you feel the need pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving in. Repeat treatment if necessary, still giving it time to air out.

Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Garden Cleanup

They're out there. Waiting. And they'll wait all winter if they have to. Then, just when you thought it was safe to go out in the garden in the spring, *they attack!!!*

They are the insects. If you don't want to add to your 1992 population of insect and disease problems, get out in the garden now and clean it up. NOW.

- Remove plants as they finish bearing. This should be an ongoing process all season long. If plants have a bad insect or disease problem, remove them completely from the garden and put out with the trash. Healthy plants can be tilled in or added to the compost pile.
- Include weeds in your search and destroy mission. Try to get the weeds from the surrounding area as well as in the garden.

SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

Flowers grown from bulbs reward us with a splash of color almost before anything else happens in the garden. They can be grown in very small places and with very little care.

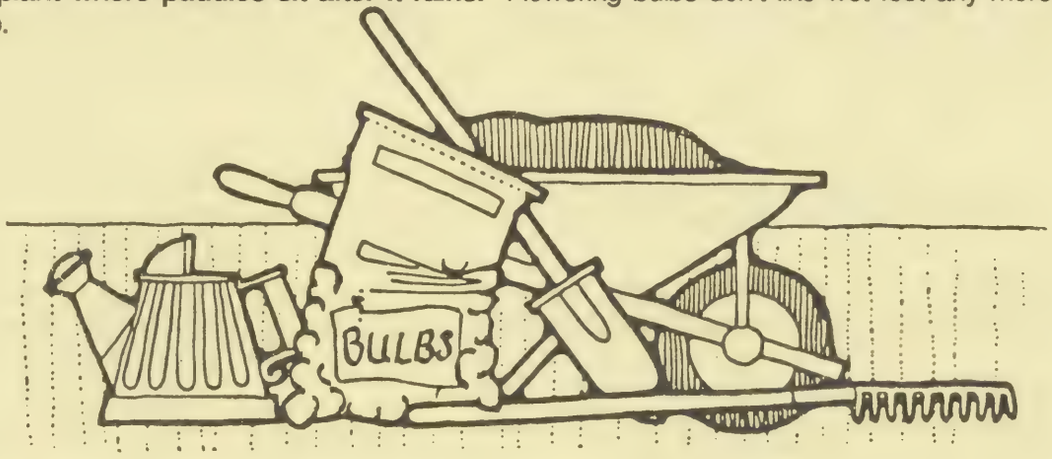
For bulbs to bloom in the spring, they must be planted in the previous fall. This allows time for roots to form while the weather is still mild in the fall and early winter. Bulbs can be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen.

SELECTING A LOCATION

Look for a place that gets a good amount of sun in the early spring. Try not to plant in the shadow of a building. However it **IS** a good idea to plant under trees, as long as the trees lose their leaves in the fall. This looks good, gives the bulbs enough light in the spring, and shades them from the hot summer sun.

Choose a spot away from the flow of foot and kid traffic. Because bikes and feet make soil hard and compacted, this ruins the roots. Clumps of bulbs look good and are safer from accidents if planted in small pockets of soil between rocks or pieces of concrete, along fences and low sunny walls. If a bulb bed is bare of vegetation most of the year, it might turn into a play area or dumping ground. Large rocks will also help to keep away lawnmowers, bikes, cars, and marauding bulldozers.

Don't plant where puddles sit after it rains. Flowering bulbs don't like wet feet any more than you do.



HOW TO PLANT

SOIL Most bulbs are left in the ground to bloom for many years without any attention, so what you do to the soil now is the most important part of planting bulbs. Dig in plenty of natural fertilizers like bone meal, wood ashes, well-rotted manure, leaf mold, and compost.

LAY OUT all the bulbs on top of the soil before planting, whether you're planting lots of them or only a few. This will give you an idea of how big an area to prepare for the amount you have.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19106 625-8280

DIG OUT THE SOIL to the necessary depth (an inch or two deeper than you need to plant the bulb) , and mix in the bone meal and compost and whatever else you are adding to the soil to condition it. Carefully set the bulbs POINT SIDE UP at the bottom of the hole. Then fill the hole with the enriched soil, adding the smaller bulbs at the correct soil depth.

HOW DEEP? The first rule is to plant bulbs at least three times as deep as they are high. This means that larger bulbs like daffodils and tulips are planted with the base of the bulb at six inches deep. Smaller bulbs like crocuses need only be three inches deep. You can combine bulbs in the same bed by putting the larger bulbs deeper and to the back and center of the bed, while the smaller ones can go around the edges and not so deep.

HOW CLOSE? Plant tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths about three inches apart, and crocuses a little closer. Plant in groups of three or more of a kind or color .

CARE OF THE PLANTED BED.

WATERING Water is necessary for root growth, so water well after planting. Rain and snow in spring are usually enough moisture, but if the spring is especially dry, water once a week.

MULCHING after planting is a very good practice for lots of reasons. It keeps the ground from drying out in the summer. It keeps weeds from growing. It makes a bed more visible. But most important is that it keeps the soil from freezing and thawing over and over in the winter, which causes the bulbs to heave up out of the ground. Low-growing shallow-rooted ground covers like ajuga can be planted around bulbs as a living mulch.

AFTER THEY BLOOM

CUTTING THE FLOWERS in spring does not harm the plant, as long as you don't pull the bulb up out of the ground in the process. On the other hand, NEVER cut or remove any of the green leaves. These are the part of the plant that manufactures food to be stored in the bulb.

IF FLOWERS GET CROWDED after a few years, dig the bulbs up in the fall and remove the bulblets. Feed the soil and replant to a few inches apart, same as when you originally planted. Move extra bulbs to another prepared spot. Bulbs will multiply over time, so if flowers are not as big or as plentiful after a few years, take advantage of the free new bulbs that are overcrowding the old bulbs by thinning and moving bulbs every four or five years.

Branching Out

A Cooperative Tree Farm

Teachers from **Harding Middle School**, representatives from **Whitehall Park** and interested neighbors gathered to discuss a greening project for their neighborhood last May. A month later a jointly managed Tree Farm and garden was born.

Teacher **Alan Zalben** was interested in growing trees with students as a long term hands-on educational project. The school, however, had no way of caring for the trees throughout the summer.

Joe Walton from Whitehall Park was interested in growing trees to be planted in his park and had the resources of a lawnmower and gardening tools, but not enough staff to organize a summer maintenance program.

The gap was filled by **Carol Vanagaitis**, a resident who had been very active in cleaning up the neighborhood and fighting their local drug problem. A lover of trees and of children, Carol saw a clear connection between having positive alternatives to drugs for youth and keeping them straight. Carol, an avid gardener, also had the time in the summer to organize neighborhood youth and adults to work the Tree Farm and garden.

The Tree Farm, which exists on a 25' by 50' plot of land, is the home to eight ornamental pear trees, four apple trees and a small vegetable garden. The pear trees will spend a couple years gaining height and strength and then will be transplanted around the school, recreational center and community. New tree seedlings will replace the transplanted trees at the farm and the process will begin again.

Carol sees the Tree Farm as "bringing the kids, the community, the teachers and the **Department of Recreation** together." She referred to the site as a place to "grow ideas and trust as well as trees." **Manny**, a 13 year old student at Harding, agrees. "Everybody thought the tree farm would get destroyed by the kids in the neighborhood, but they seem to respect it."

Soon the **William Penn Tree Project** starts branching out with tree farms throughout the city. To find out about a tree farm in your area, call 625-8280.

Update on PHA sites

Despite the strange weather we've been having, the gardeners at our PHA sites have been doing great.

Wilson Park Senior Towers have five new raised beds to add to the five that were completed last year. These 36" high raised beds have reduced the need for bending making gardening much easier.

One of the maintenance staff, **Eldredge "Raggs" Ragsdale**, is also working with one tenant in an in-ground vegetable plot nearby.

Our senior gardeners at **Emlen Arms**, led by **Gladys Blackwell**, have been working with their horticultural therapist, **Nancy Sullivan**, from the **Northwest Center**. In June 35 tenants attended a houseplant propagation workshop.

Indoor plants weren't the only things multiplying at Emlen. Two new raised vegetable beds along the driveway provide gardening space for eight to nine more people.

After three years of planning and planting, the **Johnson Homes** vegetable garden is going strong. The site, which is located at Ridge & Glenwood Avenues, has 28 plots, on-site water connections, a tool shed and plenty of room for expansion. PG's Assistant Coordinator **Deborah Hall** and Assistant Education Specialist **Janet Carter** have set up a small demonstration plot in the garden to show new vegetable varieties and growing practices. Deborah and Janet will be working with garden contact **Elaine Young**, adding fruit trees and shade structures in the fall and late winter.

The gardeners at **Champlost** completed their training with us two years ago and (Continued on page 6)

Tree & Bulb Sale

October 19th is the date for Philadelphia Green's first **Fall Tree Sale**. We will sell small, (6-8ft.), transportable, easy to plant trees, not meant for use as street trees. If you haven't received your order form in the mail, please call **625-8280**. The deadline for ordering is September 30th.

Rock Garden Workshop at Cobbs Creek Library

Guests at Gardeners Gala Brunch at F

Philadelphia Green Flower Show Exhibit

Teens Help Out at Arbor Day Tree Planting

S

← *Norris Square Garden Dedication* ↑

Brunch at Flower Show

Land Office Business at the Spring Garden Sale

Students Play Environmental Jeopardy at the Junior Flower Show

ing

Arbor Day Speaker in Rittenhouse Sq.

Proud Planters at Junior Flower Show

1991
Philadelphia Green
Special Events

NGA Acquires Property

Threat to Garden Has Happy End

"Finally we know our garden will be here forever," cried a joyous **Chris Nicholson**, coordinator of the **Church Lane Community Garden** at 234-48 East Church Lane, Germantown. "The **Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA)** has acquired it for us. We worked for years to try to save it and finally NGA was able to get it from the Redevelopment Authority."

Bruce Wiggins, Executive Director of NGA, said, "The Redevelopment Authority put the Church Lane property up for sale last year, after the community had worked for over ten years to create this wonderful green space. When the gardeners heard the property was to be sold, they phoned me. We worked with the gardeners to create an acquisition plan. NGA bid on the property and we finally finished all the paperwork in August. We really wanted to celebrate with the central Germantown community."

On September 14, gardeners and neighbors celebrated. Food and a few short speeches, along with tours of the garden, highlighted the event.

Gardeners told visitors that they had won many prizes over the years in the **City Gardens Contest**, and they wanted to be sure they could garden there forever. The City's Redevelopment Authority had acquired the land in the 1970's for a highway, but it was never built. Chris Nicholson, and several neighbors, began the garden. They developed a wonderful community garden with 20 plots plus a picnic area and a few shade trees at the rear of the property. Now that the gardeners know it will not be sold, they plan to construct a watering system and put up a better fence.

Blaine Bonham, from Philadelphia Green, along with **Libby Goldstein** and **Terry Mushovic** from Penn State's **Urban Gardening Program**, created NGA in 1986. It is a non-profit corporation whose aim is to preserve community gardens as permanent neighborhood assets. NGA works primarily in low to moderate income neighborhoods of Philadelphia, and employs methods such as acquisition or long-term lease of properties to ensure that residents will enjoy their gardens for many years to come. NGA will hold the property as a permanent garden for the community to plant and enjoy.

If you want to be sure your garden will not be sold, phone NGA at **625-8264**.

Green City Philadelphia

Green City Philadelphia is an urban environmental platform of the Nineties, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in collaboration with 60 other organizations, including PHILADELPHIA GREEN. It covers important issues such as preservation of Community Gardens, Parks and Open Space, Recycling, Air & Water quality, Food and Agriculture, Energy, and Housing.

We want the next Mayor of Philadelphia to carry out this platform. We want the candidates to hear from as many residents and leaders as possible that these goals are important to our neighborhoods. Whenever you meet a candidate please ask him to adopt the Platform. If the Platform is adopted, Philadelphia will be a green and healthy city. For additional information, or a copy of the Platform, please call the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at (215) 563-0250.

PHA Update (cont. from pg. 3)

have put their knowledge to good use. The **Tenant Management Corporation** and the development's **Youth Council** decided to spread their greening to a traffic island at 20th & Kemble Streets. Youth participating in a summer day camp sponsored by the development will be constructing and planting three raised flower beds on this site. Funding for this project came from a grant given by The William Penn Foundation to the **Metropolitan Boys & Girls Club of Philadelphia, Youth Are Resources Program**. Champlost tenant **Valerie Sloane**, site manager for the project, is working with technical advisors from PG staff.

Tree & Bulb Sale

Philadelphia Green will be sponsoring a TREE & BULB SALE on October 19th. You will be able to order the following trees - **October Glory Maple, Pin Oak, Star Magnolia, Thundercloud Plum, Flowering Stonehill Pear**, and the bulbs described below.

Tulips

Among spring-blooming bulbs, tulips are unrivaled for their range of colors, from soft pastels to stronger hues.

Apricot Beauty — One of the most exquisite and popular of all tulips. Large blooms of intense apricot-pink are suffused with rosy salmon. Early blooming; lovely with hyacinths; excellent for forcing.

Red Riding Hood — Brilliant scarlet-red flowers are broad and tapering, height 6-8". The foliage is striped with bronze and maroon. Mid-season bloomer.

Pastel Mixture— A mix of pastel cottage tulips, as colorful and exiting in the garden as they are in indoor arrangements.

Hyacinths

Few spring flowers can rival the hyacinth for fragrance. They look best planted in a bed by themselves, or clumped in the foreground of a border. Height is 10".

Delft Blue — China blue with lighter overtones.

Bolero— An apricot pink dazzler

Innocence — Glistening white with very strong stems.

Daffodils

Daffodils and narcissus are a long-lasting investment, providing years of pleasure in flower beds, borders, rock gardens, among ground covers, around trees, or naturalized in a meadow. Most are fragrant, and most are excellent as cut flowers.

Mt. Hood — A classic daff with white petals and a pale yellow trumpet that fades to white. Forces well indoors; height 18"

King Alfred — This is America's best-known daffodil since 1899. It is golden yellow with a fringed trumpet. Forces well indoors; height 18".

Salome — An elegant pastel contrast of soft apricot pink cup against silvery white petals. Very long-lasting cut or in the garden. Grow in partial shade for the deepest pink color. Blooms mid-season; height 16".

Crocus

A mix of light blue, golden yellow, violet red, and white crocus that are unsurpassed for early Spring color.

Watch Your Mail for Order Forms

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Anita and **Charlie Gadsen** are newcomers to gardening this year. They were brought into the fold by their neighbor, **Vivian Van Story** who has been an avid gardener, City Gardens Contest award winner and judge. Not satisfied growing a beautiful garden around her own house, Vivian started a community garden with neighbors last year at the corner of 15th and Thompson. She was supported by Philadelphia Green and the **Licenses and Inspections'** Lot Improvement Program. This spring Vivian inspired neighbors to start community gardens on several adjoining blocks in her North Philadelphia neighborhood.

When Charlie was first offered the chance to beautify the lot across from the Gadsen home and business, Anita just listened to what he wanted to do there. She had no thoughts of doing anything. Once she became interested, "The more I did, the more I saw what I could do."

Anita and Charlie have become good gardening partners. Charlie tends the vegetables in the back half of the garden. Anita cares for the flowers that frame the front of the garden. She chose to put several rose bushes along the front fence. Burning [illegible]nted "where their fall [illegible]l highlight the garden." Early in the season, they edged the vegetable plot with a low white fence so their grandkids wouldn't walk on the young corn and cabbage seedlings.

Anita watched Vivian at work in the gardens around the corner. She listened to Vivian's advice, and experimented on her own. Anita picked colorful plants at a garden center. She went on instinct. She admits she may have planted things closer than Vivian suggested. Yet Anita likes the way the flowers look all running together, with mixed colors. As she says, "if it doesn't work exactly right, I can change it next year."

Anita comes from a long line of gardeners. Her grandmother used to talk to the plants in her garden and Anita always thought she was crazy. Now she does the same thing. When Anita's mother asked her to help out in the garden, Anita used to say she'd "never play in the dirt." These days, her mother chuckles when she sees Anita take her tools and cross 16th Street to tend the flowers there.

Anita wants to get her hands on gardening books and learn more. She finds gardening a constant source of learning, pleasure and fun. Anita knows that she looks at life differently these days because "I'm seeing the life in the garden. I wish a lot of people, especially young people, would plant a garden. They could probably turn things around for themselves like I have."

Share your garden story. Call me at 625-8280. Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

October / November 1991

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 13, No. 9. December 1991

Strawberry Mansion Rock Garden

Verlene Johnson

For several months the neighbors, **Peggy Williams, Martha Curlton, Booker T. Moore, Lorraine Harris, Celia Linsy**, and the **2400 block of Marston Street** in Strawberry Mansion discussed plans for developing the unfinished part of their garden. The uncompleted section, separated from the main part of the garden by a red wooden border, was left as open space when the rest of the garden was developed in 1988. The gardeners decided that what the area needed was a rock garden.

Peggy called Philadelphia Green to get information and technical assistance in building and planting. They met to discuss design, construction, soil and plants that would do best in the part sun/part shade area. Mr. Moore and neighbors had already scoped out several sites where brick buildings were being demolished or where large piles of rocks were located, and were planning the engineering necessary to move them to the garden.

The workshop on October 1st was led by Ignatious Weekes, Education Specialist at Philadelphia Green. It was interesting to see how the gardeners contributed their many ideas, such as where to place the rocks, how to fill spaces with soil, and where to locate which plants.

The workshop was a huge success, and the gardeners feel confident they will be able to help other communities start their own rock gardens.

Cause For Celebration

Congratulations to **Gloria Trower** and the **Point Breeze Federation** for hosting a delightful Garden Party on October 12th. The rain that threatened the skies earlier in the day made way for the sun to shine down on those enjoying the delicious food and fellowship. Gardeners and friends came from all over the city to partake of Point Breeze hospitality in the festively decorated **Concert Garden** at **21st & Ellsworth**. Among the 75 people attending was Councilwoman **Anna Verna**.

Guests enjoyed potluck delicacies and toured nearby gardens. A special thank-you goes out to those who provided their favorite dishes for the potluck lunch.

The **Southwark/Queen Village Garden, 311-333 Christian Street**, held a **Joyful Harvest and Thanksgiving Barbecue** on November 2nd. Gardeners, neighbors and supporters met to give thanks for a dream come true. With help from the **Neighborhood Gardens Association**, the property will now be preserved permanently as a community garden.

The garden was started in 1976 on land owned by the Federal Government. In 1985 the City leased the site from the National Park Service for ten years. This year, the garden will be deeded permanently to the City to be managed by NGA and the gardeners.

Congratulations to **Libby Goldstein** and her gardeners, who have worked on this project so hard for so many years!

Building the rock garden at 2400 Marston Street.
For more about rock gardens, see page 5.

Clippings

Community News

Blanche Epps, PG volunteer extraordinaire & folklorist and **Rena Ennis,** Advisory Board Chair, along with PG staff attended the annual conference of the **American Community Gardening Association**. Gardeners and garden organizers from across the country gathered in Cleveland.

Read Alert! The **PHS Library** is now open late on Monday nights. You can browse between 5 and 7 pm. As a bonus, there will be a special Plant Clinic for sick plants.

A volunteer committee hosted the **Gay Nineties Afternoon in the Park** at the Azalea Garden. Hard-working members were **Molly Albert, Sherry Goodman, Marc Cohen, Jason Stump, Connie Rice, Lee Gutman, Linda Ross** and **Herb Gustow**.

Congratulations to Strawberry Mansion resident, **Florie Dotson** who received a Community Service award from the office of **Councilman John Street** for her efforts in the 32nd Ward. Florie, you're an excellent volunteer.

Councilman **Angel Ortiz** recently toured Norris Square garden sites with PG staff **Eileen Gallagher** and **Winfred Young**. They were joined by **OHCD staff Jeanne Burgos Maureeen O'Hara** of Urban Gardening, dedicated residents **Tomasita Romero** and **Iris Brown**.

Advisory Board members **Mamie Nichols** and **Hayward Ford** presented **Mayor W. Wilson Goode** with an award at the City Gardens Contest. He received a photo-collage showing his participation in PG activities over the years past.

PG gardeners starred on TV in "The Home Show". **Alta Felton** of the Garden of Eatin', **Sally McCabe** of Seedy Acres and **Hayward Ford** from Aspen Farms appeared in the nationwide show to talk about their gardens and Harvest Show entries.

We hosted the **Greater Newark Conservancy** on a busy Saturday during the Harvest Show. A busload of gardeners toured 18th & Glenwood, the 7th Street Tree Corridor, Aspen Farms, Tanner Triangle and topped the day off with a visit to the Harvest Show. With them were, among others, garden leaders **Blanche Epps, Jim Norris, Tomasita Romero, Alex Soroka, Gloria Trower, Sharon Turner and Gertrude Dyer.**

PG's 1992 calendar has some familiar faces - children from the **Raices** garden in Norris Square, **Mr. Norris** of 238-40 N. 29th Street in Strawberry Mansion, **Mr. Dixon** of 2801-03 W. Diamond Street, **Mary Miller** of 3023 W. Page Street, **Village for Arts & Humanities** at 10th & Germantown Avenue, **Rena Ennis & the Youth Tree Corp** from Black Oak Park.

Staff Stuff

Jane Pepper, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was honored as Citizen of the Year by the PENNJERDEL Council at its Annual Awards Luncheon.

The Licenses & Inspections Program team has put together 17 new garden blocks. In a huge effort, they placed 540 barrels on Philadelphia streets. Coordinators **Mark Teller** and **Melinda Johnson** are getting a boost from new staffer, **Kalyan Bhagratty.**

Welcome to our Youth Education Specialist, **Eugene Reeves**. We welcome back **Dawn Johns** and **Sally McCabe** from maternity leave. Hi to TJ Johns and Ian McCabe Pokras.

Jonathan Frank, our Operations Manager is recovering from a knee injury. Wishing you a speedy recovery.

A special thank you to all the members of **McFarland's Crew** who keep the Philadelphia Green "engine" going with their supreme efforts.

Staff members **Mindy Maslin** and **Janet Carter** planted 200 Honey Locust tree seeds on the Parkway in one afternoon --- in cups. They passed these out to participants at a packed Super Sunday.

Branching Out

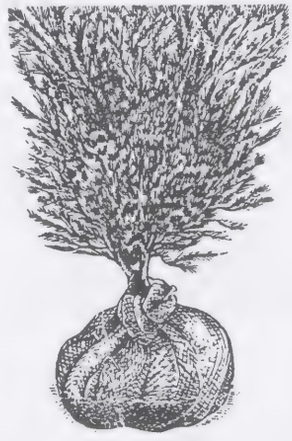
Create a Christmas Tradition

This Christmas, more environmentalists are lighting the way to a trend that is both old and new at the same time: the live Christmas tree. In part, this is because both cut and plastic trees are examples and symbols of processes that are destroying the planet.

Annually, the Christmas tree industry sells tens of millions of 8-10 year-old cut trees that most of us display for just a few weeks. Then we pitch them. In older urban areas such as Philadelphia - where seven street trees die for every one that is planted--we can not afford to treat such a valuable commodity as evergreen trees as just another harvest.

Plastic trees represent a different but equally harmful environmental problem. Plastics manufacture is a process laden with polluting steps. And of course, most people who buy plastic Christmas trees don't use them forever. However, the plastics themselves are forever, or nearly: Those trees will be around clogging landfills and leaching trace plastics when your grandchildren's great-grandchildren are hopefully ringing in the spirit of the Holidays.

Balled and burlapped, and smelling freshly of Christmas throughout the month--the way only a real Tannenbaum can -- the living Christmas tree is a fun, greener way to go. A live tree takes a bit more care than its outdated counterparts, but follow the recipe below, and your eyes may feast on a living, growing, environmentally friendly reminder of your holiday for many years to come.



Example of a balled and burlapped tree. The roots are in a ball of dirt enclosed in burlap. This holds the soil together and keeps the roots from drying out.

Figure out where you can plant the tree before you buy it. If you don't have a planting site for your tree, consider a location in your community (church, library, friend's house, community garden). If you are still stuck, call the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program (625-8280) for ideas.

Dig the hole for your tree as early as possible. That way, you'll be less likely to have to dig frozen ground. Fill your hole back up temporarily with loose soil, to avoid accidents. Bear in mind, trees transplanted in the winter do best if put in a shady location, where less moisture will transpire from the plant.

Choose a tree that looks fresh. If you shake the tree, you should see only a small dropping of needles. Check to see if the root ball is intact and that there are no fresh wounds on the trunk. The root ball should be as large as the breadth of the tree's canopy. In general, the smaller the tree the better its chances for survival over the holiday.

Give the tree a chance to adjust to indoor temperatures by keeping it in an unheated room (garage, basement, porch) for a week prior to moving it inside, and prior to returning it outside. This is especially important if the rootball is frozen. Keep the tree away from any heat vents of fans, and out of the sun, while in the house. The cooler the house and the shorter the stay indoors, the better the tree's chance for survival. Mist the tree daily, if you can. Surround the root ball with a plastic bag to keep the moisture in. Do not immerse the root ball in water but set it in a pan with a small amount of water.

Ideally the tree should only stay inside about a week, and a safe bet is not to go beyond two weeks. Plant and mulch your tree as soon as it has weaned back into cold temperatures. If need be, you can plant your tree in a shady spot for the winter and then transplant it to a more desirable permanent home in the spring. If you want, you can also redig your tree, with a slightly larger root ball, for use as a Christmas tree for the next couple of years.

By Mindy Maslin, Education Specialist in Tree Planting

Cultivating Kids

Community Children's Gardens

1st **Garden of Peace** **Sister Mary Klock & kids**
The pot of gold at the end of this rainbow mural is a garden planted under Sister Mary's tutelage. These adorable kids have learned how to plant & how to harvest. Remarkable in every way.

2nd **Raices - 2213-15 N. 2nd Street** **Iris Brown & kids**
Horticulture & history combined. These youngsters garden in the shadow of a colorful mural that depicts their Puerto Rican "raices" or roots.

Farson & Brown Street Garden **Ella Artis & kids**
Outstanding from seed to germination to raised beds. Ella is a great teacher—Wish we could be her students.

3rd **Seedy Acres Kids** **Sally McCabe & kids**
A wonderful children's garden surrounds a tepee where the little ones can rest after weeding.

Project Rainbow **Sister Diana Cerchio & kids**
Very ingenious containers with adorable cartoony signs sprout from this expanse of concrete. These kids have fun with their "Willy worm box".

Individual Children's Gardens

1st **Joy Allison Kots and Erica Baker**
Joy is an 11 year old gardener who, as she walked us through her flowers and vegetables, knew the names and proper care for each variety. Great job!

Ian Oelschlegel
This young entrepreneur exchanges his labor at a local hardware store for gardening supplies. His clever irrigation system has produced a jungle of tempting tomatoes.

2nd **Bianca Parker**
An exuberant square patch bursting with plants—even the chain link fence was utilized to grow monster cucumbers.

3rd **The Reilly Boys**
Three brothers—each with a patch—have a garden that combines vegetables, flowers & a strawberry patch. Congratulations on a great family project.

1991 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

Community Flower Gardens (Small)

3rd **2236 Wilder Street**
Shirley Gay & neighbors
2615 E. Berks Street
Betty Thomas & neighbors
5970 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell & neighbors
1031 E. Berks Street
George Craigie & neighbors

2nd **314 Emily Street**
Alice Murray & Cathy Warnke & neighbors
3023 W. Page Street
Mary Miller & Neighbors
100 Block Market Street
David Milne & neighbors

1st **5 Loxley Court**
Philip Stetson & neighbors

Community Flower Gardens (Mid-Size)

3rd **2501 W. Oxford Street**
Lula Richards & neighbors
1905-13 Wilt Street
Ronald Spangler & neighbors
1549 W. Thompson Street
Vivian Van Story & neighbors

2nd **St. Simon's - 22nd & Reed Street**
Golde Fitzpatrick & neighbors
22nd & Sears Street
Dave Pierce & neighbors

1st **Newkirk Memorial Garden**
Daisy Singletary & neighborhood
28th & Montgomery Avenue
Virginia Dowdy

Community Flower Gardens (Large)

3rd **2340 N. 29th Street**
Jim Norris & neighbors
2801-03 W. Diamond Street
William Dixon & neighbors

2nd **2427-37 N. Marston Street**
Peggy Williams & Lorraine Harris & neighbors
44th & Locust Street
Adam Levine & neighbors

1st **Fitler Square**
Peter Grove & neighbors

Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award

University City Vegetable & Herb Garden
30 S. 44th Street
Shelda Glover & neighbors

Community Children's Gardens

3rd **Seedy Acres Kids**
Sally McCabe & Kids
Project Rainbow
Sister Diana Cerchio & kids

2nd **Ralces - 2213-15 N. 2nd Street**
Iris Brown & kids
Farson & Brown Street Garden
Ella Artis & kids

1st **Garden of Peace**
Sister Mary Klock & kids

Community Vegetable Gardens (Small)

3rd **46th & Linmore Street**
Lucille Washington & neighbors
Hansberry & Wayne Avenue
Linda Dickerson, Esther Gardner & neighbors

2nd **41st & Parkside Avenue**
Ida Douglas & neighbors

1st **20th & Susquehanna Avenue**
Alice Woods & neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens (Mid-Size)

3rd **912-18 N. Leithgow Street**
Angela Kalmus & neighbors

2nd **5501 N. Market Street**
Hazel Felton & neighbors
44th & Parrish Street
Jessie Carter & neighbors

1st **2600 N. 6th Street**
Adariano LaPinia

Community Vegetable Gardens (Large)

3rd **3rd & Christian Streets**
Libby Goldstein & neighbors

2nd **20th & Tioga Streets**
Grover Willis & neighbors
1500 Grays Ferry Avenue
Mattie Robbins & neighbors

1st **Church Road & Baynton Streets**
Chris Nicholson & neighbors

Physically Challenged Gardeners

3rd **PEP**
Joseph Shorke & clients

2nd **Johnnie Mae Smith**
1625 W. Toronta Street

1st **Magee Rehabilitation Center - 16th & Race Streets**
Linda Ciccantelli and Clients

Super Senior Citizen Award

Adariano LaPinia

Community Combination Gardens (Small)

3rd **3222 W. Turner Street**
John & Florie Dotson & neighbors
3211-13 W. Dakota Street
Maryetta Williams & neighbors
Oliver Jones Memorial Garden
1426 S. Taylor Street
Alta Felton & neighbors

2nd **2301 N. Cleveland Street**
Dorothy Williams & George Trotter & neighbors
Salford & Arch Streets
Madeline Williams & neighbors

1st **124 E. Indiana Avenue**
David Hunt & Co-workers

Community Combination Gardens (Mid-Size)

3rd **2200 N. Phillips Street**
Tomasita Romero & neighbors
15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors
2301-03 N. 21st Street
Rachel Bagby & neighbors

2nd **2656-58 N. 8th Street**
Mamie Dawson & neighbors
Emlen Arms
Gladys Blackwell
46th & Wyalusing & Merion Streets
Hazel Parker, Elnora Jones & neighbors

1st **Palethorpe & Norris Streets**
Rev. Rysard Hermanowicz

Community Combination Gardens (Large)

3rd **18th & Glenwood Avenue**
James Taylor & neighbors

2nd **17th & Westmoreland Streets**
Mildred Peterkin & neighbors

1st **Aspen Farms**
Hayward Ford & neighbors
Garden of Eatin'
Alta Felton & neighbors

PHILADELPHIA GREEN Garden Blocks

3rd **3700 Block of N. 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors
2100 Block of Wharton Street
Estelle Gelzer & neighbors
1500 Block of W. Oakdale Street
Leray Williamson & neighbors

2nd **5000 Block of Ludlow Street**
Daisy Gervin & neighbors
2600 Block of N. 31st Street
Alqueen White & neighbors
400 S. 51st Street
Rena Ennis & neighbors

1st **1600 Patton Street**
Eunice Smith & neighbors

1st Year PHILADELPHIA GREEN Gardens

3rd **2000 Etting Street**
Ellen Johnson & neighbors
Genesis II - 1213-18 N. Carlisle Street
Nathaniel Nicholson & friends
Palethorpe & Dauphin Street
Bienvenido Carrillo & neighbors

2nd **2233 N. 2nd Street**
Jeannine Burgos & friends
169-171 W. Susquehanna Street
Iris Brown & friends
10 S. 43rd Street
Donald Pierce & neighbors

1st **University City Vegetable & Herb**
30 S. 44th Street
Shelda Glover & neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

3rd **1600 Block of N. 29th Street**
Silvester Griffin & neighbors
5960-70 Lambert Street
Olivia Blackwell & neighbors
5900 Block of Champlost Street
Daisy May Hill & neighbors
5957-73 Lambert Street
Rene Gethers & neighbors

2nd **1700 W. Edgely Street**
Dollie Pinckney & neighbors

1st **6100 Block Washington Avenue**
Laura Sims & neighbors

Gardens of the Lotscape Beautification Program

3rd **2127-29 Venango Street**
Doris Allen & neighbors
1406-12 Hancock Street
Sister Diana Cerchio, SSJ & neighbors

2nd **1522-24 N. 2nd Street**
Inga Burlack & neighbors
1121 Catherine Street
Sue Rosenthall & neighbors

3rd **4014-22 Ludlow Street - Elwyn Institute**
John Norbeck

Mini-Parks

2nd **3300 N. 15th Street**
Charlotte Grant & neighbors
3254 N. 15th Street
Flossie Ashe & neighbors

1st **1505-17 N. 7th Street**
Carmen Delgado & neighbors

Have a Treemendous Holiday!

from all of us at
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Hort Hints from All Over

Making Holiday Ornaments with Kids

Nature offers plenty of free material to use in making holiday decorations. Leaves, dried weeds, pine cones, and evergreen branches are everywhere if you know to look for them. Dried gourds, dried beans, and branches of herbs that were brought in from the garden after cleanup can also be used.

All you need is a little imagination, and kids certainly have enough of that! Add a few things like cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, ribbón and paper clips to nature's bounty, and put your youngsters to work.

Cartoon characters are an easy place to start. Cut out the shapes from paper or cardboard and glue on beans and seeds for decoration. Then move on to imaginary beasts with pinecone bodies, walnut heads, and beans for eyes.

Use pieces of ribbon to attach paper clip hangers. Hang your creations on the tree, on doors, or on windows.

Brighten up your house with them throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

Rock Garden Tips

Let's not re-invent the wheel! Here are a few of the things gardeners from 2400 Marston Street learned during their Rock Gardening Workshop.

- The rock garden was constructed and planted on a raised hill. The base of the hill was built up from old tree limbs and the other gathered material; this was done to provide good drainage and is also a very good way of hiding piles of junk that would otherwise have to be hauled away.
- The plants used were dwarf yews, pigmy spruce, dwarf variegated euonymous, golden sedum & sedum maximum, creeping veronica, variegated liriope, and several different hostas.

Xmas Tree Care

With that time of year almost here, many people will soon be buying Xmas trees. But how do you know if you're getting a good one? Here are a few easy rules to follow:

1) Grab hold of some of the needles and pull hard. If they stay on the branch, chances are good that the tree is fresh.

2) Try the "bounce" test. Take the tree by the trunk and bounce the base of the tree once on the ground—is the ground covered with needles? If it is, this isn't the tree for you.

Once you've picked the perfect tree for your family, here's how to keep it that way:

1) Keep it as cool as possible until you get it in the house, preferabley outside.

2) As soon as you get it in the house, make sure it's always in a couple of inches of water. Cut an inch off the base of the trunk so that a fresh section of stem is sitting in the water.

3) A simple formula for keeping the tree fresh can be made from household items: add 1/4 cup Clorox, a tablespoon of liquid plant fertilizer, and 1/2 cup corn syrup (Karo) to a gallon of warm water. Use this to water the tree as the level in the dish or tree stand drops. The corn syrup and fertilizer feed the tree, and the Clorox keeps bacteria or germs from growing in the water.

4) Don't keep the tree in the house for more than ten days. After that, they dry out no matter what you feed them, and can become a fire hazard.

After the holidays are over, save your tree for use in the garden. Needles make a great mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons. Save the branches to protect early spring crops from hungry birds. If you know someone with a chipper, the whole thing could be turned into woodchips to mulch the garden.

On the Vine

Harvest Show Sweepstakes

Community Gardens Sweepstakes Certificates are presented to community gardens with the greatest number of ribbons **(blue, red, yellow or white)** throughout the Harvest Show. These awards are listed each year on the blackboard on the night of the Harvest Party. Gift Certificates for the the purchase of gardening supplies at Primex Garden Center in Glenside are presented to the winners.

This year's winning gardens and their chairs were as follows:

Novice Garden

1st	3111-13 W. Arizona St.	Betty Oakley

Small Garden

1st	448 N. Farson	Ella Artis
2nd	Vare Middle School	Larry Stier
3rd	6513 N. 5th	Bob & Maye Clement
HM	1900 Pacific	Harold Smith
	Community Together, Urban Gardening of Chester	Frances Henderson

Medium Garden

1st	2600 N. 6th	Adariano & Marina LaPinia
2nd	4200 Sansom	Frank Kieser
3rd	25th & Spruce	Susan Hale
HM	Bancroft	Katie Reuter
	5th & Pennell (Chester)	Lynne Brown

Large Garden

1st	3rd & Christian	Libby Goldstein
2nd	Aspen Farms	Hayward Ford
3rd	Garden of Eatin'	Alta Felton
HM	1500 Greys Ferry	Mattie Robbins
	Garden of Gethsemane	Blanche Epps

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has a separate sweepstakes for the Harvest Show, and presents a separate certificate for the community garden with the most **blue** ribbons won.

Winners this year were **Southwark/Queen Village, 3rd & Christian**; and **Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen.**

What's Coming Up
December, January, February

December	1	Hanukkah starts at sunset (eight days)
	21	First day of WINTER
	24	PG OFFICE CLOSED
	25	PG OFFICE CLOSED Xmas
	26	Kwanzaa starts (eight days)
	31	PG OFFICE CLOSED
January	1	PG OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!
	18	**Gardening Basics with Jeff Ball** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. Learn techniques for planning and planting your food garden.
	25	**Soils & Soil Building/Composting with Marion Luongo** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. Tips on improving your good earth.
February	1	**Integrated Pest Management** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. Become an environmentally sensitive gardener.
	8	**Container Gardening with Bill & Mary Coppens** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. Plus new water gardening ideas.
	15	***SPECIAL GARDENING EVENT*** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. Save this date on your calendar now! More details will follow.

Penn State's Winter Workshop Series are FREE, and are held at the Penn State offices, on the third floor of the old Penn Mutual Insurance Building, 46th & Market.
Registration is at 9:00 AM; workshops are from 9:30-11:30.
For more information, call the GardenPhone at 560-4167.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Chett Carmichael's face lights up with a broad smile as he remembers judging in the **City Gardens Contest** last summer. "Anytime you can see people reclaiming their neighborhoods, having pride in the neighborhoods, it's a great thing."

Chett, a retired school principal, encountered the joy and pride of garden contestants as they showed off their handiwork. He saw again and again how any neighborhood, no matter how worn, could be transformed by even the smallest garden.

Chett's stint as City Gardens Contest judge enhanced his own gardening experiences. His eyes sparkle with pleasure as he talks about his own path to gardening. Over the years, Chett would bring home flowers for his wife, **Mamie**. About four years ago, picturing his coming retirement, Chett was inspired to grow Mamie's flowers himself. The more time he spent on his new hobby, the better he became at it.

As an artist, Chett sees the garden as his canvas. It is completely private, walled in on two sides and fenced in the back. A brick path goes down the center with three rectangular beds or "boxes" on either side. Chett calls it his "English style box garden". Each box is a garden unto itself, with flowers planted in different color combinations.

Chett hangs his tools on the back fence in pleasing combinations. Not only are the tools artfully arranged, but are close at hand when needed for a gardening chore.

Through Chett enjoys working and meditating in his garden, he hasn't been one to stay in his own backyard. He also has a passion for walking. Chett has actually walked 2,761 miles since 1988, mostly in and around his **Logan** neighborhood. On these walks, Chett noticed all the trash-filled vacant lots. He took pictures, made notes and sent them to **Mayor W. Wilson Goode's** office. The mayor authorized crews to clean all the lots. These days, the City is enforcing the law against short-dumping, especially in Chett's neighborhood.

Chett has been involved in the City Gardens Contest for two years. He sees it as inspiration for making more and more Philadelphia neighborhoods beautiful places to live. Chett loves being a gardener and a contest judge. He's especially pleased at winning second place as he did in both 1990 and 1991. Chett gathered many ideas this past summer to try in next year's garden. He's determined to win first place in 1992. It's quite possible. After all, whatever Chett Carmichael puts his mind to, he usually does.

Share your garden story. Call me at 625-8280. Patricia Schrieber

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